



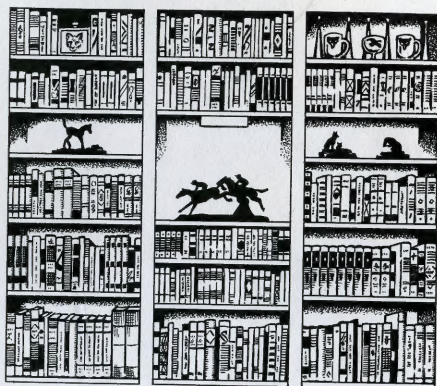
Sir George Henry Scott Douglas. Bt

A Journey Parker
1844



R.H.

WALTON



Ex Libris
JOHN AND MARTHA DANIELS

THE SHOOTER'S PRECEPTOR;

CONTAINING

PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS IN THE
CHOICE, BREAKING, AND MANAGEMENT, OF THE DOGS
USED IN SHOOTING;

WITH ILLUSTRATIVE ENGRAVINGS,
CALCULATED TO ENABLE THE READER TO FORM A CORRECT
OPINION OF EACH VARIETY.

THE FOWLING-PIECE FULLY CONSIDERED,
AND THE GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN PROJECTILE FORCE EFFECTED BY

ERRATA.

Page 36, line 17, for "Proper weight of gun," read "Proper weight of barrels."

Page 43, line 10, for "ISG" read "SSSG."

Page 59, line 6 from bottom, for "mental strife," read "mortal strife."

NORTH OF EUROPE, THE EAST INDIES, AND AMERICA.

*With every Information connected with the
Use of the Fowling-Piece.*

BY T. B. JOHNSON,

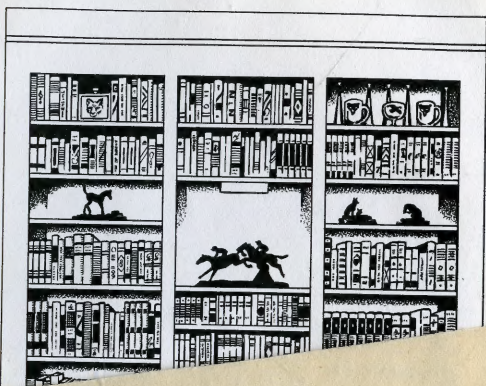
Author of the Gamekeeper's Directory, &c. &c.

LONDON:

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COVENT GARDEN;

AND TO BE HAD OF ALL BOOKSELLERS.

1838.



ERRATA.

Page 32 line 17 for "Troy's weight of gold" read "Troy's weight of silver"
Page 32 line 18 for "Troy's weight of silver" read "Troy's weight of gold"
Page 32 line 19 for "Troy's weight of gold" read "Troy's weight of silver"
Page 32 line 20 for "Troy's weight of silver" read "Troy's weight of gold"

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THE PATENT WIRE CARTRIDGE

CLEARLY POINTED OUT.

THE ART OF SHOOTING FLYING

SIMPLIFIED AND RENDERED EASY OF ATTAINMENT.

BRIEF DISQUISITIONS ON THE VARIOUS KINDS OF GAME.

THE SCOTTISH AND THE ENGLISH MOORS

ACCURATELY DESCRIBED, ACCOMPANIED BY USEFUL
ILLUSTRATIVE OBSERVATIONS.

THE CORRECT MODE OF BEATING THE ENCLOSURES AND COVERS.

WILD FOWL SHOOTING

IN ALL ITS VARIETIES.

REMARKS ON THE GAME AND THE SHOOTING

OF THE

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INTRODUCTION.

IF we take a retrospective glance at any people or nation, from the most remote period to which historic detail will carry the mind to the present time, we shall find that an acceleration in the arts and sciences has uniformly accompanied the progressive improvement of civilization: further, although the advance of this necessary association or correspondence has been originally slow, it has continued to acquire an increased impetus till political convulsion or other cause has interposed, thrown back the accumulated knowledge of ages, spreading barbarism and demoralization around. Therefore, if we duly consider the advance in this country, not only in the arts of civilized life, but also of their

indispensable accompaniments noticed above, for the last century, and particularly for the last twenty years, it will be perceived that a scientific treatise, written some time ago, must stand so much in need of revision and improvement as to appear, on republishing, if not completely new, to contain merely the fundamental principles of its predecessor. Hence if we look at the progress of that varied department of field diversion where the fowling-piece becomes an important auxiliary, it will be instantly seen that what I have precedingly observed applies with more than ordinary force to the science of shooting and its numerous additional requisites.

The object of this publication is to place before the eye of the reader a book of business, which shall contain every requisite *practical* instruction, with all those collateral elucidations which have resulted from sedulous application and experience for more than forty years; to notice all modern improvements, but particularly the re-introduction of the *Wire Cartridge*

in its improved state, which from its very superior execution and its minor advantages, must be considered as constituting an era in the use of that kind of projectile force imparted by the combustion of gunpowder through the medium of that extraordinary engine the gun. In order to render my information respecting the Wire Cartridge as complete and as satisfactory as possible, in addition to the evidence of practical experiment, I applied to the patentees, from whom I received every explanation in the most candid manner.

That the Wire Cartridge will come into general use, like the application of percussion priming to the ignition of the gunpowder, I feel an unqualified conviction; since no person (I think) can try the experiment without perceiving its collateral and aggregate superiority. As the varied application of the Wire Cartridge will be found described in the body of this work, it needs no further remark in these introductory observations.

When we consider that myriads of our countrymen, from commercial speculation, from their military profession, and other causes, not only visit various parts of the globe, but often become stationary in our own as well as in foreign settlements; and that they carry with them that inherent spirit for field sports which forms so distinctive a characteristic of the natives of the British empire, it will not surprise the reader to find that I have noticed the rural diversions (as far as the fowling-piece is concerned) which such parts afford; particularly those of our vast possessions in the East Indies, where more noble and much greater variety of game is to be met with than can be found in Great Britain. Nor has the western world been forgotten, the northern part of which has lately attracted the most painful attention. The boundless forests and savannas of Canada, like the almost impenetrable jungles and extensive plains of Hindostan, contain abundance of game, though of a different description—corresponding

in each case with the character and quality of the country. I have also noticed the game met with amidst the gloom of the Scanian forest and the North of Europe, where the Capercali, the noblest variety of the grouse, is plentifully found, and which I trust will soon ornament the evergreen woods of the Highlands of Scotland.

Finally I must observe, that I have endeavoured to convey to the reader the practical information of an old (and I trust of an observant) sportsman, whose experience has been extensive—to say the least of it, and to convey such information in a concise and lucid manner. How far I have succeeded in my object, those who peruse the following pages will be able to judge.



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THE SHOOTER'S PRECEPTOR.

THE DOG.

OF all animals which have ever existed in a state of unlimited freedom, and which have been subjected to the service of man, the dog stands pre-eminently distinguished for his social feeling, his fidelity, his extraordinary sagacity, and all those qualities which are calculated to obtain the esteem of his master, and induce the tyrant to become a friend and protector. If, amongst quadrupeds, we place the elephant at the pinnacle of the scale on the score of that instinctive intelligence which has procured for this huge creature the appellation of "the half-reasoning brute," the dog is eminently entitled to the second rank, in which he may be said to stand at an almost immeasurable distance from the lower orders of creation. Therefore, inasmuch as the dog was found to possess the perceptive faculties in surprising perfection, he quickly accommodated himself to the will or the wants of his human employer, became domesticated, and was rendered susceptible of all those varieties in form, size, and color, which are every where presented, and which cannot fail to become a subject of interesting contemplation for the physiologist and the philosopher.

Although little doubt can be entertained that all our ramifications of the dog originated from this animal in a state of nature, the genuine wild dog is, perhaps, no where to be found at the present moment. What are called wild dogs (and which are wild enough in reality) are to be found in Asia, Africa, and America; but they are merely the descendants of animals which, from the neglect of their human masters, had been constrained to seek subsistence in the forest, and were thus induced to revert to savage life. For the nearest approach to the original wild dog, we must look to this animal in the hands of those children of nature whose locality is an insuperable barrier to any advance beyond the most simple degree of civilization. If, as it has been stated above, the dog assimilates himself to the habits of his master in highly civilized society, it will be found that he advances but little beyond a primeval state where he happens to be placed in the hands of the savage or the semi-barbarian. This highly interesting animal, amongst the Esquimaux, and the diminutive races who inhabit the inhospitable and dreary regions near the Pole, appears, like his human companions, in his original simplicity or nearly so, and, in all probability, what is called the Esquimaux dog, impresses upon the mind of the beholder the figure and characteristic of the primeval prototype.

The animal under consideration being found so pliable in disposition, and so susceptible of physiological variation, it is not surprising that the sportsman should turn his attention to the attainment of a dog calculated for pointing or setting game. But at what period such an animal made his appearance, or was first employed in the business of directing the shooter's attention to the springing of game, it seems very difficult to ascertain. Our Saxon progenitors were much attached to the sports of the field; yet, inasmuch as their system of the chase

differed so essentially from the more modern modes of pursuit, it does not appear altogether probable that either whim or necessity would direct their attention to the setting or pointing dog: unless, indeed, we suppose they understood and practised the method of netting partridges with the assistance of such an animal, a diversion much in vogue prior to the introduction of the fowling-piece. Remarks precisely similar are applicable to the Normans: these fierce and inveterate sportsmen carried their passion for field diversions to a most extravagant extent, as the unquestionable records which have descended to the present day incontestibly prove; but, while it may be clearly perceived that we are indebted to them for the original blood of our highly improved varieties of the hound, no evidence can be discovered of the use of the pointing or setting dog. The Normans, though preferring the bolder and more manly amusements of the forest, such as the pursuit of the stag, the wild boar, and the wolf, were undoubtedly acquainted with hawking, as this (now fast fading) rural pastime had been introduced into Europe from the East prior to the Norman conquest, but it is doubtful whether a pointer or setter was employed for the purpose of finding the quarry: indeed, the bird (the heron) which has been uniformly allowed to afford the best sport with the hawk could not, under any circumstances, become an object for such a quadrupedal assistant; though, in after times, a dog of this description was used in partridge hawking.

We are vaguely informed that an Earl of Surrey was the first who taught the dog to stand at game; but which of these noblemen the writer has omitted to state: however, if the precise date at which the pointer or setter was introduced be placed beyond the reach of ascertainment, the idea of converting the dog to such a purpose originated from observing the movement of the animal in the field. If a young

dog, a cur, a terrier, a turnspit, for instance, or indeed any dog that will run, be taken into the field, he will chase all kinds of birds that come in his way : he will chase them in a headlong manner, till at length growing somewhat tired, and finding he cannot thus accomplish his purpose, he will be perceived, when by his olfactory organs he has ascertained his proximity, to a lark for instance, to draw softly towards the spot, to pause for a few seconds, and then rush at the object : hence originated the idea of teaching the dog to point or set game : the process was not difficult ; it consisted in merely extending the pause of the dog already noticed.

A dog of this description was coeval with the introduction of the system of netting partridges, whatever that period might be ; but, whether the animal used for the purpose was what is called a *Setter* or a *Pointer* must for ever remain unknown.

Those sportsmen who have duly studied the subject, and have practically attended to the breaking of dogs, must be aware that any dog that will range for game may be taught to stop or point ; but there are several other highly important considerations to be taken into the aggregate estimate, such as exquisite sense of smell, sufficient speed, power of endurance, &c., &c., if satisfactory performance or perfection be the object of attainment. The Newfoundland dog is very susceptible of education ; he will hunt for game, and is easily taught to point it ; but his style of ranging is heavy and lumbering, while his own weight fatigues and soon brings him to a stand. Hence the reader will easily perceive that objections could not fail to arise to every variety of the dog for the purpose under consideration, except the *Pointer* and the *Setter* ; and therefore, without further preliminary observations, I will proceed to the distinct consideration of these highly interesting classes.

THE POINTER.

IF we are mainly indebted to the beautiful little Arabian for the finest horses in the world, we must admit that to the Spanish dog we owe equal obligation for our present highly improved incomparable pointers.

The Spanish pointer is a large heavy dog, generally out at the elbows, and often bandy-legged, soft spread feet, and a remarkably broad capacious head. It therefore results that, although, in consequence of the extraordinary size and correct formation of the head, his olfactory organs are of the first order, he is not able to exert the requisite speed, nor to persevere for any considerable length of time. English sportsmen, when this dog was introduced amongst them, could not fail to admire his wonderfully acute sense of smell; but from his utter incapacity to continue ranging for a few hours, they felt the necessity of crossing the Spaniard with English blood of a fleeter and more enduring description.

A narrow-headed dog cannot possess a good nose, because, owing to the compression of his cranium, the requisite quantity and due expansion of the olfactory nerves, to constitute acuteness of smell, are rendered impossible. The sense of smell arises from small white cords, which are called the olfactory nerves; and without resorting to anatomical technicality, it may be stated that these little white cords form a sort of bunch at the upper part of the nose, and spread thence over the brain and descend to the nose and the lips, in proportion as the head is capacious or otherwise: so that when the extraordinary size of the Spanish pointer's head is duly

considered, we perceive the cause of that exquisite sense of smell which he so uniformly manifests. But, as those who first ventured upon crossing the Spanish dog with the blood of this country were ignorant of the physiological fact above mentioned, in their eagerness for speed and endurance, they soon found themselves in possession of giddy pointers, fleet enough no doubt, but with noses so inferior as to be for ever running in upon and springing their game.

That the bandy legs and broad feet of the Spanish pointer were originally produced by confinement when young, I entertain not the least doubt; yet, as "like produces like," the first remove from Spanish blood will be found to present this unpleasant deformity to a considerable extent. The foreigner is further distinguished by bad temper, a very quarrelsome disposition, and an inveterate propensity for fighting: qualities indicated very expressively by his surly and forbidding aspect, as well as by his growl—even when the hand of his master is extended to caress him.

In early life I possessed tolerably good pointers, but after following the diversion of shooting for some years, and having seen pointers much superior to my own, particularly in Yorkshire, I set about the business of improvement with a determination to persevere till I had accomplished the contemplated object—of possessing pointers equal, if not superior, to any in the world. The head of the Spaniard was alone desirable from him, which it was requisite to attach to a strong, wiry, well-formed body, supported by straight, clean, bony legs; and feet, the toes of which should be hard, close, and narrow, the ball as small as possible. No very great length of time elapsed, ere I procured a Spanish pointer of great repute in regard to breed, and which, I was credibly informed, came from the favorite strain of the late King Ferdinand. The appearance of the dog was

nothing in his favor; I entertained not the least doubt that, from family repute, he had been bred out, had been produced on the in-and-in system, which, I am well aware from experience, is a very unadvisable plan. A dip of relationship, when judiciously managed, will conduce to the beauty and mild temper of the animal, without deteriorating the sagacity, the sense of smell, or any of the essential qualities; while a continuance of the same strain produces semi-idiocy and disease; ultimately barrenness.

My first experiment was unsatisfactory: I reared three whelps, two of which were diseased, and on the score of sagacity so very inferior that I was utterly unable to teach them to hunt, or indeed any thing else. One, a dog whelp, was very healthy, grew large and strong, became remarkably sagacious, and very savage also. I took him into the fields at an early period of his life, and he hunted and set intuitively: however, as he acquired strength, he became unruly in proportion, he chased hares in the most determined manner, and it was not without much trouble, much vexation, and the exercise of a more than ordinary degree of patience, that I rendered my favorite steady and obedient: he was handsome, and the most sagacious young dog I ever saw, a quality which he displayed not only in the field, but in his guardianship of the house, his jealous attachment to the children, and indeed in every way cognizable by his necessarily limited faculties. I promised myself much gratification from his performance in the ensuing shooting season; when, alas! having rambled to a rabbit warren situate at no great distance, he fell a victim to the fury of the warrener.

For reasons which I have precedingly given, I did not reiterate the experiment, but procured another Spanish pointer, which certainly possessed the characteristics of the race in every respect. He

was three years old, and I received a good character with him for performance in the field, which, as it happened to be the shooting season, I soon put to the test. He set partridges as steadily as possible, but he did not seem to understand those finishing touches of education which distinguishes the dogs of the genuine sportsman, such as backing, the down-charge, &c. I found him an obstinate, headstrong brute, determined on chasing hares, but an animal, nevertheless, well suited for the object I had in view.

The first cross from this dog produced seven fine whelps, three of which I reared. I allowed these young animals all reasonable liberty, yet their limbs and feet plainly indicated their semi-foreign origin, as did also their surly temper and quarrelsome disposition. They readily took to pointing their game, but I was scarcely ever able to restrain them from chasing hares. However, by determined perseverance, I succeeded in reducing them to obedience, so that in the second shooting season I derived comparative satisfaction from their performance.

Without tiring the patience of the reader with minute detail, I proceeded in my experiments, keeping in view the qualities already pointed out, and after a number of crosses with selected individuals, and an occasional conjunction of first cousins, I became possessed of pointers which gave me unqualified satisfaction, either as regarded nose, fleetness, powers of endurance, steadiness, obedience, good temper, beauty, and indeed in whatever can be desired in such an animal. By encouraging the whelps to follow me in the fields as soon as they had acquired sufficient strength, the trouble of breaking was obviated: they hunted intuitively, and, while absolute whelps, it was very amusing to observe them draw up to and set their game, which they did with incredible steadiness and sagacity. For the superiority of my pointers, I could appeal to gen-

tllemen in Herefordshire, in Shropshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and as far north as Caithness, the remotest county in the Highlands of Scotland, where John Sinclair Gunn, Esq., residing in Dale, fourteen miles from Thurso (whose genuine hospitality I thus publicly acknowledge), expressed his astonishment at the performance of Bet and Di, two liver-colored bitches. About a mile from Mr. Gunn's residence, I killed sixteen brace of grouse over these bitches almost as fast as I could load the gun, so plentiful were these beautiful birds on the pleasantest moor upon which I ever set my foot: I could have bagged four times the number before night. A considerable number of years elapsed before I was able to accomplish my object, during which I had experienced many vexatious disappointments, the unpleasant recollection of which became at length completely neutralized by the satisfactory feeling of complete success. My pointers were of the middle size (in respect to height), presenting the capacious, low-dropping chest, widely-spread thighs, strong loins; legs straight, bony, and clean, toes narrow and hard, rather long than short, ball of the foot small. Head as large as possible, broad, and well formed, with plenty of lip. The best bitch I ever possessed was inclined to the roach back: her powers of endurance, particularly on the grouse mountains, were superior to what I ever witnessed in any other dog, pointer or setter. One of this bitch's whelps (Bob) was the most perfect pointer I ever possessed. During the process of my experiments, amongst other foreign dogs which I procured, was one from Portugal, who, like his Spanish relation, was ill-tempered, unwieldy, &c., and like him also, possessed a most acute sense of smell. Further, several "double-nosed pointers" came into my possession during this period; this grotesque ramification of the pointer was originally (I believe) from France, and the furrow which

separates the nostrils, and by which the animal is particularly distinguished, while it gives to his countenance an ugly and forbidding aspect, adds nothing to his qualities as a pointer. How this deformity was originally produced, I am not able to state; but, without committing a serious outrage on probability, we may suppose it arose from a freak of nature in the first instance, and has been since cultivated and continued by the whim or the caprice of man. Observations which have been already applied to the Spanish pointer, would be equally correct in the present instance; and, therefore, by referring the reader to them, tiresome repetition will be rendered unnecessary.

Having detailed at sufficient length my mode of proceeding for the improvement of the pointer, I wish it to be distinctly understood that I do not advise my brethren of the trigger to adopt a similar tedious (and vexatious) system if they consider improvement requisite, and feel anxious to obtain it: on the contrary, if they will examine the kennels of their friends and acquaintances, they will meet with animals well suited to their purpose; and will thus accomplish an object which cost me twelve years of unwearied attention, in little more than the same number of months. To such perfection has the English pointer arrived that we no longer stand in need of foreign importation. Those who first attempted to render the Spanish pointer agreeable to the taste of the English sportsman, had recourse to the hound beyond all question.

In regard to color, I can very correctly assert that I have seen good pointers of all the prevalent colors: if the tint or color appear strong, vigorously expressed, it indicates a good constitution; where, on the contrary, it presents an evanescent or faint appearance to the eye, the animal will be found weakly, liable to disease—an unerring criterion, equally applicable to dogs, horses, horned cattle,

and I believe to every other animal clothed with hair.

"There's no accounting for taste:" nor can I give any particular or conclusive reason why I preferred the liver color in the pointer. In general my pointers were of this color, relieved by white on the throat, and lower parts, ticked with liver-colored spots, and the tail tipped with white.

THE SETTER.

WITHOUT any very great stretch of imagination, we may refer the pointer, on the score of classification, to the hound; but the dog which forms the subject of this brief disquisition, though employed for the same purpose as the pointer, and precisely in the same manner also, does not appear referable to the same aggregate variety. I should have been much at a loss for the origin of the *Setter*, had not the acuteness of my very worthy friend, Mr. W. Watt, thrown some light on the subject: in a very amusing and very clever *bagatelle* on shooting, this gentleman thus expresses himself:—

"A pointer bitch, a foxhound, and
Their offspring crossed with Newfoundland
Produce a dog which some like better
Than pointers, it is called the Setter."

Having allowed Mr. Watt full credit for the ingenuity, and very probable correctness, of this assumption, I have merely to remark that where the setter exhibits a curliness, instead of the more elegant wave, in his coat, we may conclude perhaps that he has derived it from the water spaniel.

The setter is fleet, hardy, capable of enduring great fatigue, very spirited, ranges high in general, and is often very unruly. He is inferior to the

pointer in the acuteness of his olfactory organs, because his head is less capacious, and therefore cannot contain the requisite bulk and numerical ramification of the olfactory nerves to constitute a good nose. It is to this defect that the setter is indebted for his turbulent headstrong character; for, unable to ascertain his proximity to game, unless the scent be very good, he is apt to run in upon and spring it. The dog, though conscious enough of the fault, as if provoked at his own incapacity, becomes still more unruly, rushes forward with daring impetuosity, and the vexatious disappointment which thus arises becomes intolerable, particularly on the moors. Various expedients have been adopted to restrain the heedless headlong dashing of the setter, particularly that of the drag cord, a method by which the dog sooner becomes fatigued, which also enables the sportsman to come up with him more easily, but as it does not improve the animal's sense of smell; it amounts to nothing more than preventing extensive mischief.

Some years ago, on visiting the moors of Durham, I took with me a setter, one of the better kind of these animals; and from his having performed in a satisfactory manner the previous season in the enclosures, when only twelve months old, I was inclined to entertain a good opinion of him. On the morning of the 12th of August, I took him out with four pointers, intending to range with two pointers in the early part of the day, the other two in the afternoon, and the setter I meant to use according to circumstances. On reaching the shooting ground, two pointers and the setter were let out, and I soon perceived that the scent was not of the best possible description; yet the pointers were able to find their game and to go up to it in very handsome style: not so the setter: he could not accomplish the object, and appeared determined that it should not be accomplished by his smooth-haired companions.

When the pointers drew, he dashed before them into the midst of the brood, and obstinately refused to obey the whistle or the call (and the less either the one or the other is used the better, particularly in grouse shooting), and at length the drag cord was attached to him. He continued to run as violently as he was able with thirty yards of line after him, and I therefore took him up. About four o'clock in the afternoon I perceived the scent to be much improved; the wind, which had blown from the east in the morning, had veered to the south; I therefore again tried the setter, taking off the drag cord, and allowing him full liberty of action: when he behaved very well indeed, drew upon and went up to his game in a very gallant and very handsome style.

The general opinion entertained of the comparative merits of the pointer and setter is, that the former possesses a better nose, while the latter is capable of enduring much more fatigue; which is superficially true, but which I will subject to the crucible of philosophical investigation. Cause and effect: as there can result no effect without a cause, so we easily perceive in the more capacious head of the pointer the reason of his superior nose: let the reader refer to my previous observations which appear under the preceding head. In regard to speed and the power of endurance, if the subject be duly considered, it will become incontestibly apparent, that, inasmuch as in the progressive motion of the dog, the power of propulsion must be posteriorly derived, and that the office of the fore legs is merely to receive and support the weight of the animal in every stride, it consequently results that the fore legs should be short for the purpose of lowering the anterior part of the animal, while the hinder parts should be correspondingly elevated: thus, if we contemplate greyhounds remarkable for speed, we shall perceive that they are equally re-

markable for conformation: they present to the eye the deep low-dropping chest, the short fore leg, great strength of loin, and widely spread quarters, far set into the body, very muscular, and altogether well developed. Without reverting to the origin of the setter, it can scarcely have escaped the attention of the most indifferent observer how much more nearly setters in general present the animal organization just described than pointers: but, give to the pointer the same principles or development of speed (which amounts to powers of endurance also) and he will be equally fleet, and equally capable of enduring fatigue.

As anatomical investigation clearly pointed out the cause, and also the quality of the dog's nose, or sense of smell, I endeavoured to increase the size and improve the form of my setters' heads; and for this purpose I took a dip of the surly Spanish pointer blood, which however did not answer in the first remove, but required washing out as much as possible, or rather as much as was consistent with the retention of the requisite size and form of the head. I thus procured the most steady and the best setters I ever saw; but I never derived that complete, that unqualified, satisfaction from their performance as that which I obtained from the superior and more finished exertions of my superlative pointers. Di, a liver-colored setter bitch, proved herself a very superior animal. She fell under the observation of the late Thomas Knight, Esq., of Norton Hall, near Lichfield, to whom I sold her.

In one of my shooting excursions, I came in contact with the late Mr. Renshaw (then Rector of Liverpool), who was accompanied by three large heavy setters; and if they were not exactly "crook-kneed and dewlapt, like Thessalian bulls," their sunken eye, and general appearance, indicated a copious draught of the blood of the Talbot or genuine old hound, introduced into this country by

the Normans, and from which have originated all our varieties of the interesting tribe. Like the Talbot, these setters were slow, and like him their sense of smell was astonishingly acute. They passed into the hands of the late Charles Blundell, Esq., of Ince Hall, Lancashire, and I repeatedly witnessed their performance while in the hands of this gentleman. Mr. Blundell was advanced in years, was corpulent, and having had the misfortune to fracture the bone of one of his legs, was capable neither of quick nor long continued walking: these setters suited him exactly. Upon one occasion, when a number of pheasants had been driven from the covers of Ince Park to the hedge rows of the surrounding enclosures, I felt highly interested in watching the movements of these dogs, their astonishing accuracy in picking up or rather pointing these promiscuously driven birds! But, while I admired their steadiness and sagacity, I feel no hesitation in stating that they were not the sort of animals from which the keen and vigorous sportsman could derive much gratification: two hours' range on the grouse mountains would have brought them to a stand.

When persons unacquainted with shooting presume to foist on the public their sinisterly ignorant notions upon this delightful science through the medium of the press, it is not surprising that the greatest absurdities should thus become promulgated, and obtain credence with persons practically unacquainted with the subject, but who are unfortunate enough to peruse such specimens of literary imposition. Thus, a "sporting" author very *sapiently* informs his readers that the setter is "objectionable in turnips fields from his sudden drop;" this literary mountebank not being aware that the "drop" is the effect of education, and may be more easily communicated to the pointer than the setter: indeed, all superior dogs, whether pointers or setters, will crouch on coming into the midst of a brood of

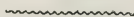
grouse, or a covey of partridges—the birds being around them, they very sagaciously adopt this method to avoid mischief, and the genuine sportsman well understands the manœuvre. Setters are more apt to plunge into the water than pointers; because, being more thickly clad, they are more oppressed by heat. Plunging continually into the water soon exhausts a dog; and on this account both setters and pointers should be restrained from such a pernicious practice. On the moors setters suffer more from thirst than pointers, for the same reason, if the season happens to be remarkably dry: in general, however, the moors are wet enough; for, to say nothing of the boggy quality of these elevated regions, it is well known that much more rain descends amongst the hills than in the champagne and low parts of the country.

THE RUSSIAN POINTER.

It has already been remarked, that “there’s no accounting for taste;” which is frequently manifested in the most capricious and even ridiculous forms: hence we may excuse the introduction of “the Russian pointer” to the shooter, in the pursuit of the grouse and the partridge. The dog passing under this denomination is the large curly-haired water spaniel, whose appearance presents to the eye the very antipodes of either elegance or beauty. I could never prevail upon myself to become possessed of such an animal—at least for the purpose of pointing the moorcock on the mountains, or the partridge in the cultivated parts of the country. If these uncouth dogs happen to have a capacious head, their sense of smell will be acute accordingly; but their conformation, their legs, and their woolly-clothed

feet, show at once that they can neither range handsomely, nor be sufficiently fleet. Though I never shot over Russian pointers myself, curiosity has prompted me to witness their operations with several of my brethren of the trigger: one instance will be a sufficient exemplification. Being out partridge shooting in the early part of the month of September, in the township of Billinge (Lancashire), after having bagged a few birds, I perceived some straggling partridges fly towards me, having evidently been sprung by an unruly dog. Presently I heard a canine expression which it was impossible to misunderstand; and proceeding in the direction whence the sounds seemed to issue, I could distinctly hear the application of the whip, and in a few minutes I observed a stout figure, equipped as a shooter, pausing from the fatigue of passionate flagellation, with a dog crouching at his feet. To be brief, the sportsman was accompanied by three Russian pointers, and having met with birds in a large field of potatoes, the dogs, unable or unwilling to point them, had sprung the game and he could not get a shot. These Russian pointers had been divested of their woolly water spaniel covering by the instrumentality of the shears, which was correct enough, the weather being warm—it was giving the dogs a great advantage; but they could neither range in proper style, nor scent their game. The gentleman informed me that he had disturbed (or rather his dogs) a considerable number of birds in his progress without being able to procure a fair shot. The scent was not exactly so good as might have been wished; but as I suspected there were still birds amongst the potatoes, I loitered till the disappointed sportsman had disappeared, when I commenced beating the field. I found four birds, three of which I bagged, and retracing my steps towards the part where I had observed the disturbed birds (already noticed) I bagged three more. I then

proceeded in my originally intended direction, thus crossing the ground already beaten by the Russian pointers, not doubting that I should pick up some of the birds which those uncouth creatures were unable to set, but which they disturbed. I succeeded in bringing four brace to bag. On my return home, I met the same person and his Russian pointers again. Angry disappointment was depicted on his countenance. However, he was not entirely bootless: he had bagged a brace out of four random shots; was "completely tired (he observed) from bawling at and beating his unruly brutes of dogs!"



THE SPRINGER, COCK DOG, OR SPANIEL.

THE beautiful little dog, who is recognised, according to locality or otherwise, by the designations which are prefixed to this article, is to be met with in most parts of the country, but particularly in the midland counties of England, where the woods and numerous covers afford scope for his peculiar ability, or the exercise of that department of the chase for which he is singularly and indeed pre-eminently adapted.

The subject of the present chapter, susceptible of every variety of size, color, and even *form*, as far as is consistent with the preservation of the genuine characteristics, has received distinguished denominations from the real or supposed superiority of the strain, or peculiar and limited ramification. Thus, the *Blenheim* Spaniels long enjoyed the reputation of superiority, and at one period, might have been justly entitled to the distinction—arising in all probability from the devoted attachment of their originator, and the judicious system which he adopted in breeding them. But, whatever might have been

their claim to priority of character, it has long since faded into nothingness, and those of the present day, which are said to have descended from the Blenheim stock, are not exactly the kind which the well-informed and reflective sportsman would select, either for exquisite sense of smell, or superior power of endurance. Such of the Blenheims as have fallen under my notice, seemed to have been produced too much on the in-and-in system, to have been continued too long on the same strain: being "leggy," with heads not sufficiently capacious, and defective in sagacity as a matter of course, since no dog can possess the latter quality in the superlative degree, which has not a large head, and the requisite volume of that medullary substance called brain.

The "King Charles's breed" of these little dogs, is also generally understood as possessing claims to distinction; but I am inclined to think that this unfortunate monarch was rather attached to the spaniel tribe than to any peculiarity which might be exhibited by a particular strain.

In this brief enumeration, Spitalfields must not be forgotten, which has long been celebrated for the number, if not for the quality, of its spaniels. It seems quite a "fancy" amongst the weavers and working classes in this densely populated part of the metropolis to breed spaniels. Pigeon fancying is carried on not only in London, but in most of the large towns of the kingdom: and as an amusement may be all well enough in its way, because the performances of the birds as tumblers, carriers, &c., can be thus as well witnessed and ascertained, as if the breeders were situated in the most rural manner possible: but the case is different with the breeders of spaniels, as the theatre of their legitimate action must be far beyond the smoke of Spitalfields. However, *chacun à son goût*; nor are the spaniels produced in the crowded streets, which constitute the part of London just mentioned, intended for the

business to which spaniels are generally appropriated : on the contrary, they are meant to excite interest or curiosity from their color, the size of their ears, the diminutive form, &c. I have frequently been much amused with the strange freaks which nature is coaxed to display when her operations are under the influential direction of the whim or caprice of man : a gross deformity may thus not unfrequently be regarded as a prizeable beauty, and no pains spared to propagate and render it permanent. The Spitalfields spaniels cannot fail to be interesting to the physiologist, but as far as regards the sportsman they are scarcely entitled to notice.

The spaniel best calculated for business should be very hardy, and remarkable for the goodness of his nose ; his legs should be bony, rather short than long, supporting a body round, muscular, and strong ; the head large and capacious, for reasons which have been already given. A spaniel thus formed, is capable of enduring the requisite fatigue of cover shooting, of threading the briars and brakes with energy, and persevering spiritedly throughout the day. If these little dogs be bred "too fine," they are incapable of going through the indispensable exertion, and will be found much inferior in sagacity to their more hardy and stronger fraternity.

A small-eared spaniel presents an ugly appearance ; small ears indicate a bad nose. If we look at all the varieties of the hound, from the large lofty Talbot down to the diminutive lapdog beagle, we shall uniformly find that large ears accompany acuteness of smell : a similar observation is applicable to the pointer, the setter, and the spaniel, if not to dogs in general.

The Duke of Newcastle has long been celebrated for spaniels ; and indeed excellent dogs of this description will be found in all the midland counties, and also in some parts of Yorkshire. I have seen many good spaniels in Wales, in Cheshire, and also

in Lancashire. For some years I had a breed of spaniels which gave me much satisfaction; they were remarkably well formed, and of a beautiful chocolate color. In general I found them of little use till they were about three years old, before which time they did not appear to imbibe a correct notion of their business, or for what they were intended. I frequently took one or two of them with a pointer, for hedge row shooting; a mode of proceeding, by which I have frequently obtained good diversion in the north-west of England, and particularly in Lancashire. In these parts the broad brushy fences grow upon banks (locally called *cops*) with a ditch running by the side of them, where woodcocks will frequently be found. Also, in these parts of the country, pits are numerous (whence marl has been taken) fringed with that sort of cover favorable for the retreat of these birds; and in such places, well trained spaniels may be employed with advantage. Cover shooting, however, must be regarded as the diversion best calculated for their exertions, in which they appear to great advantage. There is something very animating in driving covers with spaniels, particularly when they announce their approach to game by the eager whimper, and follow this welcome preliminary signal, by opening as they flush the bird.

It is not generally known, even among sportsmen, that spaniels are susceptible of being used for partridge shooting; yet, good diversion may be procured with a steady team of them in the month of September, very different in character certainly from the sport afforded by the pointer or the setter. It will easily be perceived when these busy little dogs come upon the game, by their increased earnestness; while the birds, as if surprised at the mode of pursuit, run out and spread before them, and continue every now and then to spring, one or perhaps two at a time. Some sportsmen entertain an opinion, that

more birds may thus be bagged than by the use of the larger dogs mentioned above. The spaniels must be well trained for the purpose: indeed, they must be well trained for all the purposes to which they are applied; they must never be allowed to ramble out of distance. A keeper or attendant is requisite where a team of spaniels are brought out.

THE RETRIEVER.

THE preliminary consideration in all disquisitions should be the object which it is desirable to attain, and consequently the instrument best calculated to accomplish it: thus, in the present case, we want neither the persevering speed of the hound, nor the continued range of the pointer; on the contrary, the dog intended for a *Retriever* has no occasion for extraordinary celerity of progressive motion, or uncommon power of endurance, but should possess a good nose and strength sufficient to carry a pheasant or a hare in his mouth without difficulty, and even to jump a fence with either the one or the other.

An animal nearly allied to what is called the Newfoundland dog, is generally used for the purpose in question, and I have seen some of this kind evince great sagacity and perform the work of retrieving in the most satisfactory manner. But I must here observe, that those overgrown wavy or curly-haired dogs, so frequently seen in this country, are not genuine descendants of the canine native or aborigine of Newfoundland; that they partake of the blood of the legitimate North American, seems highly probable, but their unwieldy size has been attained by successive breeding for the purpose, and in climates more favorable to the growth of the dog, than the inhospitable regions of Labrador.

The legitimate dog of Labrador or Newfoundland, is much smaller than the animal which passes under such a description in this country, but much more active, wiry, strong, and very sagacious. This animal, united with a powerful setter, produces a dog admirably calculated for the business of retrieving.

Like the pointer or the setter, the retriever should receive his first instructions as early as possible; and although I am aware it is the general custom to teach them to fetch and carry stones or sticks in the first instance, I am decidedly opposed to the system. The lessons ought to be administered at the game they are intended to recover, and if such a proceeding happened to be inconvenient, small birds should be shot for the purpose: the report of the gun should be the signal of expectation, though the retriever should not be allowed to move, but at the word, or the wave of the hand for that purpose. Like a susceptible child, a well bred retriever makes rapid progress in education, the greatest difficulty in general being to prevent him mouthing too hard. Without entering into minutiae, I would impress upon the minds of those who undertake to train or break retrievers, to ascertain the animal's temper and act accordingly, in all cases endeavoring to make the dog comprehend what is expected from him; and that too by persuasion, rather than by force: for instance, if the young dog be beaten for mouthing too hard, he will be apt to become fearful of mouthing at all; let the teacher be perfectly calm and good tempered, and he need be under no apprehension of ultimate success.

As it is the business of a retriever to recover and bring the killed and wounded game, it is evident his power of smell should be acute, or he would be likely to lose much of the latter. The retriever is very pleasant and very useful in battu or cover shooting, but ought never to accompany the pointing or the setting dog, who dislike such a com-

panion in the field ; they become uneasy, if not unsteady, at his operations. A well-killed partridge is easily picked up by the shooter or his attendant, while a pointer will recover a winged bird as well as a retriever.

In fens and marshes, and generally in wild-fowl and shore shooting, a retriever is of the utmost importance; without such assistance, many of the wounded birds will make their escape. A retriever, with a share of the genuine Newfoundland blood, will generally be found inclined to take the water in the same manner as the pointer testifies an intuitive inclination to stand at game: nothing is more true than that "custom becomes second nature;" and that the habits thus acquired, are transmitted from the progenitors to the progeny, is equally incontestible.

BREAKING DOGS FOR THE GUN.

WHETHER the pointer or the setter be the object of consideration, he should be taken into the field as soon as he is able to follow, even if it be but for a very short time; if the puppy be properly bred, he will commence hunting of his own accord; and though he may, perhaps, continue to chase small birds for some time, it will not be long ere he manifest his genuine characteristics if he happen to meet with partridges—indeed, he will be very likely to pause at them the first time; but, as it generally happens that young pointers and setters are placed at walks, and not taken out till they are upwards of twelve months old, if not two years, so very considerable trouble is frequently experienced in teaching them the rudiments of their education, or the purpose for which they are destined, nor is it an uncommon occurrence for a dog to be irretrievably

ruined from this very cause, having previously rambled into the fields perhaps, being allowed to chase hares, as well as to contract other bad habits. Further, when a resolute unruly young dog happens to be brought under the tuition of a keeper or a professed dog breaker, the biped is apt rather to obey the inconsiderate impulses of his own (hasty) disposition, than study the temperament of the quadruped placed under his care. In dog breaking, the whip is a favorite instrument with the class of persons alluded to above, is frequently applied, often very injudiciously. A dog understands the mode of contest where the whip is employed, and if he be obstinate, will not be satisfied that he is completely vanquished till after repeated disputes—not of the most pleasant description, certainly. The first step in the education of the dog should be the ascertainment of his temper and disposition, if he has contracted bad habits, and in what manner he was allowed to imbibe them; and where coercion becomes indispensable, it should be, as far as possible, of that description which comes not so palpably within the comprehension of the animal as the use of the whip. Further, whenever correction is administered, be the form what it may, the dog should not be suffered to recommence ranging till he and his instructor are reconciled. I have more than once seen a dog breaker, after flogging the animal severely, allow him to run off immediately, and make a blow at him as he is commencing his flight; the dog of course is very unwilling to come within the reach of the whip again: the animal should be restrained from leaving the spot for a short space of time, the man should admonish him thus—“*Take heed!*” applying his hand in a half caressing manner to his head or neck.

If a dog spring and chase his game, the breaker should not move from the spot, but remain till the dog returns, frequently whistling for him. If mode-

rate flagellation has not the desired effect, the drag cord should be attached to his neck, longer or shorter, according to the strength of the dog and the nature of the ground: on the moors, the line runs easily over the tops of the heath, and while thirty yards will not be found too heavy, it gives the teacher great command over him. As the genuine tyro generally sets before he rushes in, so it should, if possible, be contrived that several yards of the cord remain loose, as it were, or unstretched, in order that the check by the hand may be rendered more effective. If, after repeated experiments the dog persevere in obstinate insubordination, the operation of the drag cord may be rendered more severe by fixing small iron spikes in the strap to which the cord is attached, so that the points of them press against the animal's neck when he rushes in. There are few dogs that will not give in under such circumstances; yet I have more than once met with brutes upon which such coercion was unavailing, particularly in regard to chasing hares; for, although the spiked collar restrained their vicious propensity, it was no sooner removed than they recommenced chasing hares as obstinately as possible. I have seen sportsmen salute a dog with a few pellets of shot when he has rushed after a hare, a method which I do not recommend; nor indeed are these hard, headstrong, viciously-inclined dogs worth the trouble of reducing to obedience—notwithstanding the remark current enough with those who have not duly considered the subject, that a dog of this description, when once rendered steady, is almost invaluable: but are such animals ever rendered sufficiently steady so that their subsequent service can be implicitly relied on?

If a dog be properly bred and taken into the field sufficiently early, very little trouble attends his education. I contrived, if possible, that my whelps should be brought forth at the latter end of March

or the early part of April, and by the time the grass lands were cleared of their crops of hay, they were able to follow me into the aftermath in the immediate vicinity of my residence: they very rarely failed to hunt larks and small birds, and I allowed them to chase such small game unrestrainedly; in a short time, they would draw upon and set larks, and at length, when the coveys of birds came into the grass fields (which is the practice with them, towards evening in particular, at the latter end of July), I took care to place them so that they might get upon them: it rarely happened they did not set the first time. I now began to let them understand the business for which they were intended; but I had not the least occasion for a whip; and as soon as they had acquired a little knowledge of their profession, I took a steady pointer out with them for the purpose of teaching them to back, not to break fence, &c. The trouble amounted to very little, the gratification I derived from observing the working of my whelps was very great. About the middle of September, I commenced shooting over them, in company with their elder fraternity, when they were easily induced to down-charge, taught the manner of quartering their ground (by the movement of the hand), and became complete in their education. They were not of course able to go through a long day's labour, nor did I ever keep them out for more than an hour or two till they had acquired sufficient strength, lest they should become disgusted and blink their game.

It sometimes happens that a young dog becomes alarmed at the report of a gun, when great care is necessary to prevent the evil consequences which might thence result. When my whelps were very young I occasionally discharged a gun near their kennel, or near them in the yard, and continued the practice till I felt satisfied there was nothing to fear on that score. However, should a young dog take

alarm at the report of the gun, he must be caressed and coaxed till a few birds have been killed in his sight; and should a bird be winged, he should be put on the foot of it, and encouraged to hunt up to and mouth it—his fears will very soon vanish, he will quickly perceive for what the gun is intended.

The Muzzle Peg.—This instrument is made of wood, shaped to the neck and under jaw of the dog, with a point (some have two points) projecting six or eight inches beyond his nose. This is frequently placed on the dog under the idea that it will induce him to carry his head well up (a very desirable mode of ranging); but such a notion is founded in error: it is true, the dog cannot get his head down while encumbered with an instrument which he finds extremely unpleasant, and of which at first he tries hard to rid himself; but the moment it is removed, he is apt to bring his head lower than before; or, in other words, this mode of attempting a remedy rather tends to increase the evil. When it is perceived that a dog carries his head too low, it will be further observed that he is thus very liable to get upon and follow the foot of the birds; the latter seeing the dog pursue their track, become alarmed, fancy themselves discovered, and will not lie: therefore, whenever a young dog testifies an inclination to follow his game upon the track, "*Hold up!*" should be sharply spoken, and the wave of the hand should induce the dog to cross so that he catches the scent of the birds by the wind; yet, the muzzle peg is not destitute of utility. The months of March and July may be regarded as the seasons for dog breaking; leverets are frequently met with in the former, and young partridges unable to fly in the latter: the muzzle peg prevents a young dog from chopping either the one or the other.

I have met with many sportsmen who entertained the opinion that dogs broken on the moors were superior to those which received their education in

the enclosed part of the country : I have not found such to be the case. Dogs trained upon the moors are very apt to range too wide (I am speaking from very considerable experience), which is extremely unpleasant ; for, to say nothing of the probability of birds being thus missed, and the increase of labour to the sportsman, it places the whistle in continual requisition, and renders much more noise indispensable than is consistent with pleasant diversion, particularly on the moors, where every thing should proceed as quietly as possible. Indeed, in partridge shooting, the voice or the whistle should seldom be heard.

When dogs are trained amongst the enclosures, the fences mark the extent of their range ; nor should the dog ever cross the fence before the shooter.

Another notion which I regard as equally inconsiderate, and which I have found to be equally incorrect, is, that dogs broke to partridges rarely show to advantage on the grouse mountains. My dogs were uniformly broke to partridges ; and I can unhesitatingly assert that I never saw their superiors on the moors : I have seen many hundreds, some thousands, perform on the grouse mountains, and am doubtful if I ever saw any so good.

In both grouse and partridge shooting, the less noise the better ; nor should the voice or the whistle be used where the motion of the hand will answer the purpose. I generally shot with three dogs. When one of them came to a point, the others backed the moment they perceived it. After firing, the dogs went down or crouched till the gun was reloaded, when the movement of the hand set them again in motion.

BREEDING.

AFTER what has been stated under the preceding heads, little remains for observation in this place. The pointer will be found ill-tempered and turbulent till the foreign disposition (Spanish or French) has been washed out. I have already stated, that to such perfection has the breed of pointers arrived in this country, that the sportsman may procure the most eligible specimens for his purpose, without having recourse to the tedious, troublesome, and expensive process of foreign supply. In regard to the setter and the spaniel, the reader is referred to the articles which appear distinctly under each head.



THE GUN.

THERE is a limit (wisely contrived by the Creator) beyond which human genius cannot penetrate ; but (by the same unerring wisdom) it has been also contrived that the intellectual capacity of man shall not point out the extent to which research or improvement in art and science may be carried ; and, therefore, the attainments of the mind, and the efforts of skill and ingenuity must always appear incomplete, if not susceptible of nearer approach to perfection. It has often happened, however, that one discovery has led to another ; and, had not the extraordinary combustible quality of the composition called gunpowder been brought to light, we should have continued in ignorance of the engine which, in conjunc-

tion with it, has produced a revolution in the art of war, and imparted a very different character to the sports of the field.

Without tracing the progress of gunnery from its original introduction to the present time, from the enormous tube (or cannon) cast by Callinicus, and used by Mahomet II., in the siege of Constantinople, to the fowling-piece of modern days, it may be correctly enough observed, that no invention has more called forth the exercise of the genius of man, and that has more experienced the progress of successive improvement. The match-lock, though not altogether laid aside by the natives of the East Indies, was superseded by the superior mode of discharge by flint and steel, and the abilities of many clever mechanics were perseveringly exercised in the improvement of the apparatus for this purpose; the flint lock had attained great, perhaps extraordinary, perfection, when the application of percussion priming to the ignition of the gunpowder in the barrel, very much altered the external form of this sample of ingenious mechanism, and by rendering the operation of the shot quick and more effective, diverted the attention of sportsmen to the composition of this equally surprising combustible, and its application by the magazine, the tube, the cap, &c. Yet, although the application of percussion powder as priming for the discharge of the fowling-piece was a great improvement, the range or carrying of the shot (closely or otherwise) continued in the same uncertain and unsatisfactory state. At length the Patent Wire Cartridge was announced, and viewed by the old-fashioned portion of the shooting brotherhood (as percussion priming had been before) as a kind of innovation; and on this account, added to the circumstance of its being brought out before it had acquired that perfection which it has since attained, its progress for some time was slow, and in most instances, its operation not altogether satisfactory.

Having paid very considerable attention to the cartridge, I feel no hesitation in stating, with the celebrated Captain Ross, that the invention is the greatest improvement the fowling-piece has ever yet received. The use of these cartridges may be said to have "annihilated space," and the wild old moorcock, the suspicious partridge, the watchful goose, and still more wary swan, may be reached at distances quite incredible to those who have not tried the experiment. If the application of percussion priming excited astonishment by its almost inconceivable instantaneity of ignition, the introduction of the cartridge may be said to have formed an era in the sports of the field as far as projectile force is concerned. But before I proceed to discuss the qualities of the Patent Wire Cartridge, its modifications, and its decided superiority, it may not be amiss to draw the reader's attention to the engine by which they are propelled.

In the manufacture of fire-arms, this country stands pre-eminently distinguished above the rest of the world—in regard to neatness, strength, and every other essential or valuable property; if the English gun has not reached the quintessence of perfection, it has attained a degree of excellence, which cannot fail to satisfy the most fastidious sportsman. In calling the shooter's attention to the choice of a gun few observations are necessary, because there are few points with which he need trouble himself, every thing else may be safely left to the maker. Indeed, it would scarcely be worth ascertaining the manner in which the gun drives its shot, except perhaps for the purpose of being convinced in how trifling a degree one barrel excels another in power of propulsion and closeness of carrying the shot, and thus guarding ourselves against the folly of boasting that mine is "the best gun in all England;" because we may have been, on one or two occasions, fortunate enough to bring down a bird at the distance of sixty

or seventy yards. However, let it not be supposed that I thus mean to insinuate, that the price demanded for a well and highly finished gun, is more than an adequate remuneration for the extraordinary labour and skill which has been bestowed on it; yet I am of opinion that a very erroneous notion is frequently entertained of what constitutes its superiority. It very seldom happens that guns of the same size and weight will excel each other beyond a mere trifle. I feel a perfect conviction that "the best gun in all England" will not accomplish as much at forty-five yards, as the worst that was ever put together, will effect at forty; in other words, that no one gun will excel another by five yards. When guns are tried by an average of three shots only, the result will amount to very little indeed as regards proof of superiority. I have known guns (and gunmakers are, no doubt, aware of the fact) vary from fifty to one hundred pellets in a sheet of paper. Now, if with three discharges, one barrel should produce two good and one bad shots, and another present the reverse, a person not well acquainted with the subject would immediately pronounce the former the better gun; whereas, it is quite possible that the contrary might be found the case upon an average of twelve shots. I by no means recommend the purchase of an inferiorly finished gun; for, to say nothing of the risk of bursting, and the much greater length of time a well-finished gun will continue in use, the much pleasanter feel imparted by the latter is not only more satisfactory, but enables the sportsman to shoot better also.*

Colonel Hawker thus expresses himself on the subject—"We are often laughed at for our expen-

* Further, more accidents have happened from faulty workmanship in the locks, than from all other causes perhaps put together.

diture in guns, when an old gamekeeper will sometimes beat them all with a *piece* that has scarcely a choice whether to prefer firing or being fired at with it. But if we consider that the excellence of a lock, and the soundness of a barrel, although not absolutely requisite in killing, are indispensably necessary to the safety of our persons; and that although practice may bring a man to point accurately with a broomstick, yet we must allow the advantage, not to say the comfort and neatness, of having our guns turned out in a handsome and workmanlike manner."

M. de Marolles published a work at Paris in 1788, entitled "*La Chasse au Fusil*," in which he thus expresses himself—"I will, however, say that on this subject (the carrying of the shot), guns in general possess little, if any, advantage one over the other; and this I state after having made a multiplicity of experiments to satisfy myself on the subject. The small number of gunmakers, and of the curious, who are well informed on this subject, are well aware that the carrying of guns, as to closeness or spreading of the shot, is liable to an infinity of variations; so that from the effect of chance, or of circumstances which it is impossible to foresee or comprehend, the pellets of shot which compose the charge, do, at the instant of explosion, so combine and arrange themselves in such divers ways, from one discharge to another, that all the trials one can make will never present results, I will not say uniform, but sufficiently approaching it, to convince persons who examine closely, and will not allow themselves to be prejudiced."

Again, "from all that I have said in this and the preceding chapter, it follows that with equal charges, guns carry the shot so nearly alike that we cannot place confidence in those marvellous guns we hear every day extolled; and that the carrying varies singularly from one discharge to another. In short,

that *what any gun can do sometimes as to carrying, another can do it also.*"

Having already noticed the surpassing excellence of English guns, let the purchaser keep in mind that it is not reasonable to expect a superior article for an inferior price.

A FEW ESSENTIAL POINTS ABOUT A GUN.

1. It should mount well; viz., when brought up to the shoulder, it should be just that length in the stock as neither to cramp the right arm, nor force it to too great an extension. It should be just so much bent as to bring the line of aim up to the eye when the head is tolerably erect. In fact, it should *mount easily and comfortably to the shooter.*

2. The grain of the wood of which the stock is composed should run parallel with the bend of the stock, particularly in the thin part where it is grasped with the right hand, otherwise there may be a liability to break by the recoil perhaps; or, which is still more likely, by an accidental fall.

3. The ramrod should be considerably thicker than those usually made; let utility, rather than appearance, constitute the object in view.

4. A twisted stub barrel is preferable to any other.

5. Quickness of discharge is of the utmost importance, and in consequence much useless labour has been employed to shorten the communication between the cap and the charge. The discharge after the hammer is down, in percussion guns, is so instantaneous as to render any perceptible difference impossible. However, a saving of time may be effected by shortening the distance between the hammer on

36. A FEW ESSENTIAL POINTS ABOUT A GUN.

full cock and the nipple as far as is consistent with freedom of action and the requisite force.

6. The mainspring must be sufficiently strong.

7. The hammer should draw back smoothly, and tell well into the tumbler.

8. The trigger should pull easily.

9. If the purchaser has not acquired sufficient knowledge to form a satisfactory opinion of the finish of a gun, let him pass his hand over the different parts of lock, cock, trigger guard, &c.; and if the gun be properly finished, no points or sharp corners will be perceptible, all will impress a pleasing and satisfactory feeling on the sense of touch. This precaution may be the means of preventing sore fingers.

10. The calibre of the gun should be regulated by its weight in the following manner:—

Proper weight of gun proportioned to the calibre (in regard to safety).

| | DOUBLE. |
|----------------|----------|
| | lbs. oz. |
| 18 gauge | 4 0 |
| 14 do. | 4 6 |
| 12 do. | 4 14 |

11. The larger the calibre the greater of course must be the requisite charge; therefore, unless the shooter be willing to fire a large charge of both powder and shot, he will derive more satisfaction from a small or moderate gauge. The proper charge will be described as I proceed.

12. The heaviest gun, *ceteris paribus*, will do the most execution; but the purchaser should keep in mind that handling a gun in the maker's shop is not exactly the same thing as clambering over the grouse mountains with it for seven or eight hours beneath the heat of the month of August. In the early part of the season, birds lie well, and are easily brought down, and therefore a light gun will answer the purpose; but when they become wild, heavier metal is rendered necessary.

13. The length of barrel from 28 to 32 inches. Diameter of gauges as measured in fractions (32's) of an inch.

| GAUGE. | | GAUGE. | |
|--------|-----------------|--------|-----------------|
| 52 | $14\frac{3}{4}$ | 14 | 22 full. |
| 36 | 16 | 13 | 23 |
| 25 | 18 | 12 | $23\frac{1}{2}$ |
| 22 | 19 | 11 | 24 full. |
| 19 | 20 | 10 | 25 |
| 18 | $20\frac{1}{2}$ | 9 | 26 |
| 17 | 21 | 8 | 27 |
| 16 | $21\frac{1}{2}$ | 7 | 28 |
| 15 | 22 bare. | 6 | 30 |

TRIAL OF GUNS.

One servant or assistant only on such occasions is all the company requisite, and he merely to count the pellets of shot, and rewash the target. An iron target of considerable dimensions is well adapted for the purpose, and by this means the centre of the shot will be easily perceivable, a space measured round it, the number of pellets thrown into it ascertained, and the manner in which they have been driven. The target should be brushed over each time with thick whitewash for the purpose of exhibiting more clearly the operation of each discharge.

Another Method.—A quire of paper, 22 inches by 30, weighing 3 lbs., forms a good target. It should be nailed to a wooden frame and hung against a wall, care being taken that the paper does not touch the wall. At each discharge, the first and last sheet should be removed and others substituted for them, which will render the holes made by the pellets of the shot distinctly perceptible, and enable the sports-

man to ascertain the strength of the discharge (the more important object), and also the manner in which the shot are thrown.

An 18 gauge gun, with $2\frac{1}{4}$ drachms of powder and one ounce of shot, No. 6, should, at 40 yards, throw into the first sheet 60, and through the 24 sheets 25, pellets.

A 14 gauge gun, with $2\frac{3}{4}$ drachms of powder and $1\frac{1}{4}$ ounce of shot, should throw into the first sheet 90, and through the 24 sheets 30, pellets.

A 12 gauge gun, with 3 drachms of powder and $1\frac{3}{8}$ ounce of shot, will throw into the first sheet 100, and through the 24 sheets 40, pellets.

A sportsman is apt to boast of the performance both of his dog and gun, and persons are not unfrequently met with, who unhesitatingly assert that their guns will accomplish much more than the preceding calculation; if, however, they will make a fair trial, the test the average of twelve discharges, they will scarcely fail to discover that they had previously come to an inconsiderate conclusion.

In order to prevent fraud, caution is requisite, and it is on this account that at the commencement of this article, I recommend only a servant or attendant to accompany the sportsman: if the sportsman proceed in the trial alone, imposition becomes impossible.

It should be ascertained that the paper is quite dry, and of the specified size and weight. The charge of powder and shot should be accurately *weighed* each time. The powder should be of good quality, which may be procured at all respectable vendors: if it be of an inferior description, the shot will be thrown thicker, but will not be driven with the requisite force.

The paper should be carefully examined previous to trial to prevent the success of manœuvres which have been practised, and may be again attempted, simulated perforations of the paper, for instance.

The distance should be correctly measured—two or three yards make an extraordinary difference.

If an iron target be used, all the previous marks should be carefully obliterated. A rest will render the aim more steady. When firing, grasp the barrel firmly with the left hand, which will check the recoil; but the gun should not be pressed too hard against the shoulder.

THE CARE OF THE GUN.

It is advisable to clean the gun after each day's use, but this is not absolutely necessary; however, this indispensable operation should not be too long delayed. When not cleaned after using (when in careful hands), it should be put by loaded (I am supposing it meant to be used the following day, otherwise it should most certainly be cleaned at once), and a good supply of oil poured down the barrel and afterwards wiped out; the copper caps should be taken off, and a pin inserted and allowed to remain in each nipple. With a brush or cloth, every part of the lock and other iron work should be well oiled and wiped over, and the hammers let down on the pin heads.

DIRECTIONS FOR CLEANING.

Insert the lower end of the barrel in cold water several inches deep, and wash it well out with a piece of cloth about two inches square, round the wire brush. Afterwards repeat the operation with boiling water: wipe the outside of the barrel dry,

place it muzzle downwards, and allow it to drain for a minute: then let the interior of the barrel be rubbed as dry as possible, and the whole barrel allowed to become hot by the fire (the degree of heat not sufficient to melt the solder, but so that the barrel can scarcely be taken in the hand); after which let it be well oiled all over, pouring so much into the barrel as that it will ooze out at the nipple.

If the day has been free from rain, the lock will not require taking off: indeed, in fair weather the lock will not require attention to its internal parts very often, particularly in well finished guns: when taken off, a small brush or feather will remove any feculency, and a little oil should be applied in a similar manner. When taken to pieces (which is a very simple process) the parts should be completely cleaned with a bit of flannel or cloth, well oiled, and the oil wiped off, as sufficient will still adhere to all the parts to prevent rust, and impart freedom of action—animal oil should be used for these purposes. The wood of the stock should be rubbed well with linseed oil, which in time will form a crust of excellent varnish. The gun when laid by should be well secured from the external air, in which case it will not be so liable to rust.



FURTHER GENERAL HINTS.

Before loading, wipe out the barrel with a piece of cloth that fits tight, taking care to force the air rapidly through the nipple, and put in the barrel about half a charge of powder—shake it well down and fire it off; then load while the barrel is warm. Never flash off a cap without powder in the barrel; never snap down the hammer without a cap on the nipple. After discharging the gun, allow the ham-

mer to remain down on the nipple, until the barrel has been reloaded, when it should be drawn up to half cock, and a cap placed on the nipple.

To preserve a gun from the effects of salt water, rub the barrel well with mercurial ointment, allowing it to continue on for a day or two, when it may be wiped off. This process should be occasionally repeated.

AMMUNITION.

HAVING previously observed that the manufacture of gunpowder has reached so great a degree of perfection, and is so generally understood, that a satisfactory article is procurable at all respectable vendors, it only remains to be stated in this place, that the coarse grained canister, distinguished by the title "For Percussion," experiences at the present moment a decided preference.

The difference in the strength of powder manufactured by all the makers of repute is so very trifling as not to merit particular notice; and those who feel disposed to test this extraordinary combustible, should duly consider the state of the atmosphere, and the susceptibility of this composition, from imbibition, to considerable variation; while, if any inference is to be drawn from a day's shooting, inasmuch as a few grains will produce much difference, and that the quantity in every charge will not be exactly the same, mathematical demonstration is unattainable: however, the shooter may console himself with the well-ascertained fact, that, should the power of propulsion appear too weak, he can increase the force of the discharge by adding triflingly to the quantity of powder.

The granulation of powder is of more import-

ance than might be hastily supposed: the grains should be as equal in size and form as possible, and present a glossy appearance. When it loses its brightness and crumbles to dust, it is utterly unfit for the use of the sportsman.

The clean combustion of powder is highly desirable: if in burning it deposits much filth or feculency, the sportsman should reject it.



SHOT.

The rotundity of shot, so much insisted on as indispensable to its satisfactory operation, might appear prettily enough on paper; but if a person will take the trouble to fire into a cake of tallow, he will find that, however round the pellets may have been originally, they leave the muzzle of the gun in a variety of fantastic shapes, coming more under the description of angular than rotund; while some part of the charge undergoes fusion, or is rubbed into dust, by the excess of friction to which it is subjected in its progress up the barrel.

Schedule of Shot.—Persons only superficially acquainted with the subject, are very well aware that unqualified accuracy is out of the question, since in counting the number of pellets in the ounce, variations are uniformly presented, particularly in the smaller descriptions: I shall therefore allow myself a very reasonable latitude under such circumstances, and say *about*.

No. 10 about 1700 in one ounce.

| | | |
|---|------|--------|
| 9 | 1000 | ditto. |
| 8 | 600 | ditto. |
| 7 | 350 | ditto. |
| 6 | 270 | ditto. |
| 5 | 220 | ditto. |

| | | | |
|-------|-------|-----|-------------------------------|
| No. 4 | about | 180 | in one ounce. |
| 3 | | 130 | ditto. |
| 2 | | 110 | ditto. |
| 1 | | 80 | ditto. |
| B | | 75 | ditto. |
| B B | | 60 | ditto. |
| A | | 50 | ditto. |
| A A | | 40 | ditto. |
| A A A | | 32 | ditto, the largest drop shot. |
| I S G | | 17 | ditto, mould. |
| S S G | | 15 | ditto. |
| S G | | 11 | ditto. |
| M G | | 9 | ditto. |
| L G | | 5 | ditto. |

WADDING.

A thick, close-fitting wadding upon the powder, with a thinner on the shot, will be found to answer the purpose.

Some persons grease the waddings under the idea that it prevents the gun leading—the effect is doubtful.

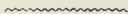
Punched wadding is preferable to any other.

CAPS.

Those made with tolerably thick metal, and which open into three divisions on explosion, are not liable to fly and wound the face of the shooter, and may be safely recommended. The French caps are extremely dangerous, and those who use them risk their sight.

POWDER FLASK.

A Safety Powder Flask has excited the attention, and exercised the skill, of several ingenious mechanics, and patents have been procured for inventions intended to remove the danger of explosion; but those contrivances, which seemed to render "assurance doubly sure," have never been generally adopted by sportsmen, and Sykes's plan, if not perfectly unobjectionable, has long been, and still continues, the favorite.



THE SHOT BELT.

The long-established kind, having a charger to draw out, are preferable. Those with snap charges are not to be depended on: sometimes the shot will hang, and only a part of the charge will be poured into the barrel; at other times a pellet will stick, stop the return of the partition, and thus a quantity much too large is let loose.

THE ART OF SHOOTING FLYING.

IN order to place this subject as lucidly as possible before the reader, a few brief observations on the first or essential principle appear indispensable. *Sympathy*, by which is understood the communication of a particular feeling or sensation from one animated body to another, or from one part of the same body to another, constitutes what I mean by the *essential principle of Shooting Flying* : thus, if the eye and finger be not in exact correspondence, the perfection of the art cannot be acquired. It would puzzle philosophers, perhaps, to furnish a satisfactory description of the manner in which that extraordinary organ, the eye, conveys its impression to that highly sensitive member, the finger ; nor is it requisite to enter into such an abstruse investigation in this place : it is sufficient for my purpose if I am able to convey my meaning intelligibly to those who may honor my excogitations with perusal. All experienced shooters are aware that it occasionally has happened that they have drawn the trigger, though they were conscious the bird would be missed—sight and touch not being in strict unison or precise sympathetic correspondence.

If we turn our attention to the use of the bow, we shall perceive this principle more forcibly illustrated. The archer looks at the target, and at the moment his sight satisfies him lets go the arrow. Similar observations might be extended to the use of most projectiles ; but as it would amount to nothing more than a mere multiplication of words, I shall proceed to a consideration not so easily resolvable.

Sportsmen are not unanimous in their opinion

whether one or both eyes should be used in taking aim ; and I hesitate not to state that I have seen excellent marksmen on both sides the question ; or, in other words, I have met with very good shots who did not close an eye when taking aim, and others equally good who did. Lupton, gamekeeper (some twenty-five years since) to Mr. Dalton, of Thurnham, near Lancaster, was, I think, the best and cleanest shot I ever saw, and he shut one eye when he raised the gun to his shoulder. I have uniformly adopted the same method ; but, inasmuch as I have heard more than one shooter, whose opinion well merited attention, decide against such a system, it would appear presumptuous in me to insist upon its superiority. If the rifleman closes one eye in levelling his piece, if the mechanic does the same in order to ascertain if the level of a piece of wood or metal be correct ; it may be asserted, on the other hand, that the Indian throws his tomahawk, and the South Sea Islander his spear, with both eyes open : and therefore, having taken this very short, but candid, view of the case, I leave the reader to judge for himself.

In shooting the head should be kept sufficiently elevated so as to obtain a fair view of both gun and object.

On approaching a brood of grouse or a covey of partridges, the first bird which attracts the shooter's attention, if within distance, should be his object, and he should look at it before he brings the gun up to his shoulder : if it be rising, he should level above it. When the object flies straight, it presents the easiest shot possible—only avoid shooting below it. When birds rise in a cluster (seldom the case with grouse) an object should be selected nevertheless ; for if the shooter fire at the ruck, he will be very likely to experience the mortification of seeing all the birds fly away. If the aim be steadily taken at one bird, two will sometimes drop (when they

rise close together)—I have bagged three under such circumstances more than once.

When a bird crosses at the distance of forty yards, the level should be well up and two feet before it. At seventy yards, four feet; for shorter distances I leave the shooter to judge for himself. The late Mr. Shoubridge, one of the best shots of his day, on its being remarked—"You shot behind the bird, Sir," used to answer, "It is all very well to tell me this: I know it as well as you; but to get your gun sufficiently forward is extremely difficult." The shooter's attention is so much attracted and even absorbed by the bird, that he can scarcely force his eye forward enough, and the finger being in corresponding unison with the eye, the discharge will take place accordingly. An old sportsman observes, that his plan is to place his gun at once in advance, and wait the bird's arrival—which may answer very well, if the bird continues its course.

A bird crossing to the left presents a more easy shot than when it flies to the right; it is still more difficult when, on rising, it flies directly towards the shooter, in which case he should wait patiently till it has completely passed, when he can act according to circumstances.

If the shooter will attentively consider the subject, he will perceive the act of levelling at game attended with an obedient inclination or motion of his whole frame (the body sympathising with the sight), which should not be checked till the discharge has been completely accomplished.

Whenever the sportsman approaches the pointing dog, if he feel a little palpitation, an unusual sort of respiration, let him pause till his agitation has entirely subsided: he should go up to his game as calm and unruffled as a Stoic. The sudden spring of the covey, after a pause (which appears to impress something of an *awful* feeling on the tyro) with a tremendous whirring and flutter, the piercing

scream of the old cock, and the general confusion, will scarcely fail to produce considerable trepidation in those unused to the business ; but those who feel anxious to obtain satisfactory proficiency as marksmen may rest assured that till such time as they have attained sufficient coolness, till they can go up quite calmly, they have not a chance of accomplishing their object.

Grouse rise with much less noise than partridges. In general these beautiful mountain birds are more shy than their cousins of the enclosures : when the dogs draw upon grouse, the brood, led by the old cock, will frequently run for a much greater distance than would be easily credited by those who have never visited the moors : even when, after some time, the dogs become stationary, and the game is expected to rise every instant, the birds again move forward, and it sometimes happens that the patience of the sportsman is put to a severe trial ere the game rises before him : at length, the chatter of the old cock is heard, which he sends forth after having run out for some distance in advance and is getting on the wing—it is the signal for his family to rise and follow him. Grouse fly much faster than partridges, they rise at a greater distance (in general) ; but as they get on the wing with much less noise, the inexperienced marksman is consequently less liable to lose his self-possession ; further, on the rising of a brood of grouse, the shooter will frequently perceive that some of the birds get up with their faces towards him, turning immediately as it were on a pivot, thus affording time for a deliberate aim.

When shooting in company at grouse or partridges, select your object on your own side, never attempt to shoot across to your friend's side : rather remain inactive if the birds rise thus awkwardly.

When a bird falls, do not move from the spot, nor suffer the dogs to move, till you have reloaded.

Even should the bird have run, the time occupied in loading will not render its recovery the less probable; while, if you move, the dogs will do the same, a practice which is sure to render them unsteady.

If birds become wild, either on the moors or in the cultivated grounds, I have sometimes found that firing into them induced them to lie: for which purpose the Patent Cartridge is admirably adapted, particularly those composed of large shot.

Those who are anxious to attain proficiency in this delightful art, should rather suspect their own lack of skill than lay the miscarriage to the fault of the powder, the shot, the dog, or the gun: unless they can discover the source of a fault, they are not likely to correct it.

Never cock both barrels; yet, however ridiculous it may appear, I hesitate not to advise, after having discharged one barrel, to examine if the other be not cocked, before the butt end of the piece is placed on the ground for the purpose of reloading. It will occasionally happen, particularly on the moors, that after having discharged one barrel, indications of another shot are presented, when, without attempting to reload, having one barrel in reserve, you endeavour to obtain it: you do not succeed, and yet, by some means, the second barrel has become cocked—hence the necessity of the caution given above. In letting down the cock, allow it to pass the half-cock, draw it back, and feel it tell well into the tumbler. Further, it is advisable to try if the charge in the second barrel has moved or become loose from the firing of the first.

Avoid leaning over the barrels while loading.—Carry the gun with the muzzle upwards: *it should never be carried in a position likely to injure man or beast, should an accidental discharge take place.*

Always consider a gun loaded; never point it, nor suffer it to be pointed, at any living being.

Never beat a bush, &c., with either end of your

gun ; nor assist your friend with it, nor allow him thus to assist you, in crossing a fence.

If a pellet of shot fall on the ramrod while in the barrel, turn the muzzle downward, push in the ramrod, and it will roll out.

When the weather is warm, shooting becomes laborious ; therefore, avoid all tight dresses, particularly pinching shoes ; ligatures should be avoided as much as possible. Carry no unnecessary weight of any kind.

In shooting with a double gun, the marker should be desired to keep his eye on the bird which falls from the first barrel, the shooter can watch the motions of the others.

Never attempt to fire if the game happen to pass near either man or beast—let there be an intervening space of a dozen yards at least. Never fire near the head of any person, although the muzzle of the gun may be considerably in advance.

When a bird has been struck, and is observed to drop its legs, fly off with an undulating motion, or tower (rise perpendicularly for several yards), keep your eye on the spot where it falls : it will be found dead ; it dies in the air, and generally falls on its back. A bird that towers and falls at a distance, beyond a hedge or perhaps two, will often be found nearer than it seems to fall.

If your dogs come to a point at a high hedge, get softly over at some yards distance, and let your friend or attendant go to the dogs. Come nearly opposite, and when ready whistle rather than speak.

Do not beat the same ground too frequently, or the game will be apt to leave it.

In boisterous weather beat to windward.

If game be tickle, head your dogs, making a semi-circuit for the purpose, and be as silent as possible.

Finally, let it be duly impressed on the mind that as the gun is a very dangerous engine, the utmost care is requisite in the use of it.

THE PATENT WIRE CARTRIDGE.

As this invention has attained a degree of perfection sufficient to satisfy the most fastidious, and as this publication is intended to impart as much genuine practical information as possible, after a series of very satisfactory experiments, I did not hesitate to apply to the patentees for what appeared to me the requisite particulars, in order to place this highly interesting improvement in projectile force, as lucidly as possible before the eye of the reader.

As a general principle, the Patent Wire Cartridge admits of using smaller shot, and a lighter charge, than ordinary ; and a light cartridge with plenty of powder is preferable to a preponderance of shot.

The blue cartridge, though incomparably superior to the loose charge of shot, is not intended to kill at so great a distance as the others : it is, however, far preferable in general on that very account, as it will bring down an object at any distance that even the most random shooter would care to fire at a *single bird*, and will, of course, afford a better chance at short distances, by reason of the shot expanding earlier. I would, therefore, recommend the blue cartridge as the general charge for game (including hares, ducks, &c.), and I think No. 6 shot (all the pigeon-match shooters use this size, and none understand the calculation of chances afforded by different sized shot better than these gentlemen), or perhaps No. 5, will be found most serviceable, except under such circumstances as I shall hereafter notice. This is for a *single* object (flying or running) at any distance within seventy yards (*not sportsman's mea-*

sure). The red are intended to command a longer range, but as I do not find the difference in the distances at which the blue and green will kill is so great as to require one between them, I would, for the sake of avoiding confusion, recommend the sportsman to leave the red out of the calculation altogether. The green take the longest range. Now, as these are not required for single objects in general, but for packs of grouse, flocks of wild fowl, &c., heavier shot becomes necessary. No. 3, and larger, according as circumstances may point out, are the sizes most suitable for them: smaller than No. 4 are of no use whatever.

As these cartridges are calculated to accomplish the object at a distance considerably beyond what the loose charge can possibly effect, so I do not recommend their use in the first barrel in the early part of September, when the birds "lie like stones;" nor, indeed, should I prefer them in the first barrel at the commencement of grouse shooting, perhaps, if the moors were well stocked with game, and had not been previously disturbed: however, in those parts of England where the best moors are to be met with, as Yorkshire, Westmoreland, Cumberland, and Durham, the proprietors find it impossible to prevent the daring depredations of the incorrigible poacher, who commences his nefarious work several days prior to the 12th of August. In consequence birds are frequently found by the sportsman fewer than expectation, and even wild, on the very first day of the season. The moors of Derbyshire, or at least some parts of them, afford tolerable diversion; while those of Staffordshire are utterly unworthy of notice—two brace on the 12th of August being considered extraordinary success: on three different occasions I tried the Staffordshire moors, and was not lucky enough to meet with a single bird. In some parts of Scotland, particularly in the distant Highlands, I have seen grouse "lie like stones."

Yet, after having had considerable experience with the patent cartridge, I should never think of using the loose charge either in one barrel or the other, in the princely diversion afforded by the grouse mountains. Let it not be forgotten that grouse in general are more tickle than partridges, and rise at longer distances. Moreover, they very soon become wild, and therefore it is advisable to commence with cartridges, in both barrels (the blue, of course), which should be filled with No. 6 shot; in a short time, I should supersede that in the second barrel with a green cartridge, charged with No. 3, or larger, according as circumstances might point out: the red cartridge I have already said may be altogether dispensed with.

Black game, though it lies well in the very early part of the season, soon becomes shy of human approach, particularly the old black cocks, the bagging of which should be the aim of the sportsman: and here the cartridge will be found remarkably applicable.

In the pursuit of wild fowl, a blue cartridge, containing No. 5 or 6 shot, should be placed in the first barrel; and a green, with No. 3, in the second—or, perhaps shot rather larger, particularly if the game be very wild.

For woodcocks and snipes, No. 8 blue will be found to answer the purpose. These cartridges are suitable also for small birds in general.

For firing into a covey of partridges or brood of grouse, when very wild, green No. 3 or 4 should be employed.

The pigeon matches are generally shot with blue No. 6: and I have been given to understand that Colonel Hawker uses No. 6 in a small cartridge, for the purpose of killing the crippled ducks, geese, &c., after the discharge of his large punt gun.

A great saving of time and labour is effected in using the cartridge, which should be placed imme-

diately on the powder, without the intervention of a wadding—*on no account should a wadding be placed over the powder.* One end of the cartridge is marked "*bottom,*" which, as the word implies, should be placed downwards. The cartridge should be well rammed down.

To the *upper* end of the cartridge a wadding is attached, which fits the calibre like an ordinary wadding; but the cartridge itself should be two sizes smaller than the bore of the gun, or it will not go down pleasantly when the barrel becomes foul.

Never wrap paper round the cartridges; should they happen to be too small, place a wadding over them, by which they will be kept in their place.

The cartridges should never be suffered to lie in a damp situation.

In regard to how much further the cartridge will kill than the loose charge, it will be found a problem, the solution of which sets mathematical demonstration at defiance. When we consider the susceptibility of gunpowder for the imbibition of moisture, and its unavoidable exposure to atmospheric influence, and that the elastic fluid generated by its explosion will be found to vary in strength accordingly, it will be easily perceived that absolute exactitude in the result of any series of experiments is not to be expected. Further, guns do not discharge them alike; though I never met with an instance where the cartridge did not surprisingly improve the shooting of the gun. Such persons, however, as will take the trouble to fire a few cartridges over still water, bending as low as possible for the purpose, and aiming at some fixed object on the water, at 100 or 150 yards' distance, will distinctly perceive the operation of the discharge. Let loose charges be used in the same manner; when the comparison will be found so greatly in favour of the cartridge as to excite astonishment.

COMPOSITION OF THE PATENT CARTRIDGES.

They are composed of a wire frame or case, enveloped in thin paper, with a wadding attached that fits the bore of the gun. The charge of shot is placed within the wire frame, and the pellets are mixed with bone dust, to prevent adhesion or clubbing together by the force of the discharge. On leaving the muzzle of the gun, the paper is torn in pieces, and the pellets of shot begin to leave the wire frame by passing through its net-like meshes. The frame is carried forward as long as any pellets of shot continue in it; but when it becomes quite empty it falls to the ground. Hence it will be perceived that the liberation of the shot is gradual, commencing, in fact, at the moment of the cartridge leaving the barrel; thus it would be possible to kill at only a few paces from the object, if the aim were very correct.

The following advantages are derivable from the cartridge:—

1. It will kill from 15 to 40 yards further than the loose charge.
2. If an increase of force be requisite on any emergency, it may be obtained, by increasing the powder, almost to any extent, without spreading the shot, as always happens with the loose charge.
3. The barrel never leads with the cartridge—a circumstance of considerable importance, where the sportsman obtains a great number of shots in the course of the day, on account of the excessive recoil of a foul barrel. The combustion of the powder, it is true, deposits a little feculency on the interior surface of the barrel, which does not, however, in-

crease the repercussion a tenth part as much as the tenacious adhesion of the scrapings of the loose shot: this feculency may be easily removed in the following manner:—After loading, put a tight-fitting wadding upon the cartridge, and pour water down the barrel, allow it to remain a few seconds, pour it out, and discharge the piece; a process which completely removes the adhesion mentioned above. Should the barrel have been previously much loaded with the loose charge, this method will not answer the purpose.

4. You may “pick doublets” much more easily with the cartridge than with the loose charge.

5. You may load in a quarter of the time required by the loose charge.

If it become desirable to draw the cartridge, screw a wadding upon the worm of the ramrod, and then screw the worm firmly into the cartridge. If the wadding of the cartridge should tear off in the barrel, shake out the shot, and the empty wire case may then be drawn out, or fired off.

Should the cartridge fit too tight, the cork at the top may be squeezed laterally with the finger and thumb before placing it in the barrel.

Remember.—You may be as deliberate as you please when shooting with the cartridge.

How to carry the Cartridges.—Supposing the shooter is to carry his own cartridges, two or three pockets should be formed on each side of the waistcoat, one above another, with perpendicular divisions to fit the cartridges, reaching only about two-thirds up the cartridge, for the purpose of facility in taking out. When two sorts of cartridges are used, they may be kept on the different sides, those for the right barrel on the right side, those for the left on the other.

Or, a small leather case to fit the waistcoat or other pocket, stitched into compartments as already described.

GROUSE SHOOTING.

WHILE the glittering peacock displays his incomparable beauty beneath the almost scorching sun of the East, and the wild turkey animates the American wilds and savannas, that noble bird, the cock of the wood, is to be found in the dark forests of Europe; but I am not aware that he is to be met with in any other part of the world. This bird, we are informed, sometimes reaches the weight of sixteen pounds, which I readily credit from specimens which have fallen under my observation in this country. It might appear at the first blush of the case, that the pursuit of such magnificent game would afford the most superlative diversion; but, inasmuch as the bird, as if aware of the high price set on his head, seems for ever on the watch, and avoids the human approach as cautiously and as carefully as possible, the sport thus obtained is not equal to that afforded by red grouse. All large birds, indeed, are very shy; and, strange as it must appear, the large grouse hatched in the gloomy wood far from the haunts and the habitations of man, the moment he perceives a human being is perfectly conscious of his most powerful foe. "If we look at animated nature, we shall find that a feeling or notion of danger is implanted throughout creation at that early period of existence when such an impression could not have originated from sight or experience, but must have been sympathetically communicated from the female to the growing fœtus in the womb. Or why does the fawn testify alarm, and fly from the tiger, the first time it beholds him, if it were not for a consciousness of

danger imparted by sympathetic precept, as no opportunity of ocular instruction could have occurred? If the young animal just mentioned come in contact with the elephant, the ox, and the buffalo, its terrors are not excited; it testifies no alarm; it feels confident no danger is to be apprehended from them; yet this correct notion or feeling of safety must have been imparted in the same manner as the impression of terror at the presence of the tiger had been conveyed." For a further illustration of this subject, the reader is referred to a little work, lately published, entitled "*Physiological Observations of Mental Susceptibility, Hereditary Instinct, Sympathy, and Fascination.*"

Wood grouse are found in Prussia, Sweden, Norway, and most parts of Northern Europe, and scarcely a doubt can be entertained, that some centuries ago this bird was known in the Highlands of Scotland, where I trust it will soon reappear, as the Earl of Bredalbane procured a supply, something more than twelve months since, from Norway, for propagation in that part of our island, the nature of which, and its much secluded locality, seem well calculated for the purpose.

In the north of Europe, particularly in Norway, several varieties of the grouse are found, which are not to be met with in any other part; the ripa and the hazel hen, for instance.

In Ireland, black game (black grouse) is not seen; I am doubtful if it is to be found in Wales. In the New Forest, Hampshire, and some parts of the west, it is thinly scattered; a remark which will apply to Staffordshire and Derbyshire; some of the moors in the latter county (those of the Dukes of Rutland and Devonshire, and Mr. White) are tolerably stocked with red grouse; a straggling bird or two may be sometimes seen on the Staffordshire hills. I once met with a brace of grouse on Charnwood Forest, Leicestershire, to

the right of Whittle Hill—an extraordinary occurrence.

The Derbyshire hills may be said to run into Lancashire and Yorkshire, and are not destitute of red grouse, though these birds are not numerous in any part of the former county, nor on that part of the latter adjoining it. If the sportsman proceed to Yorkshire, and enter it upon the Rochdale road, he will find red grouse as soon as he passes Blackstone Edge, and the farther he immerses into this celebrated sporting county, the better he will find the moors stocked with red grouse—black game there is none.

Proceeding through Lancaster, Westmoreland is soon presented, where the greater part of the moors are well stocked, particularly those about Sizergh, Kirkby Stephen, Shap, &c., with red grouse only—at least I never saw a single head of black game in Westmoreland.

Many of the moors of Cumberland afford excellent diversion, and in the northern parts of this county the black cock presents himself.

I have many times experienced very satisfactory diversion on the grouse mountains of Durham; particularly on those belonging to the Duke of Cleveland and the bishop of the diocese. No black game in Durham.

Northumberland has its grouse mountains, many of which are well stocked, according to report; but I am unable to speak of them from personal observation.

After passing through the town of Carlisle, the sportsman finds himself on the borders, so celebrated for the mental strife of their chieftains in former times; he reaches the Lowlands of Scotland, where the characteristic of the country, in the manners and habits of the people, excites his attention; and proceeding northward, he perceives inviting moorlands, and at length reaches the

beautiful heathery mountains surrounding Nithsdale, which are well stocked with black and red grouse. Many parts of the Lowlands afford excellent diversion; but as regards grouse shooting, the Highlands are superlative.

All the best moors in England (and Scotland also) are as strictly preserved as the predatory disposition of the lead miners will allow. As most of the grouse mountains of the north of England contain lead ore, miners are employed in many parts of them, who acquire a perfect knowledge of the locality of these elevated regions, as well as of the broods of grouse, and a few days or a week before the 12th of August, emerge from their dark, subterranean recesses, for the purpose of pursuing grouse with dog and gun. In vain the *watchers* (persons appointed to prevent trespass) remonstrate: if the lead-miners expect opposition beyond oral expostulation, they prepare to meet it, and range the mountains in overpowering parties accordingly.

Those who are anxious for satisfactory grouse shooting should obtain permission from some proprietor of moorlands (I seldom found these gentlemen niggards when applied to in a proper manner), in order to prevent disappointment; for such mountains as are left unprotected, absolutely swarm with shooters on the 12th of August, to say nothing of the handy work of those illegitimates who do not wait for the legal commencement of the season.

Those who from the midland counties or the south of England, visit the grouse mountains of the north for the first time will not fail to feel the most interesting surprise on beholding the "cloud cap" hills, and observing the moist and murky vapor rolling round the tops, and perhaps half way down the sides, of the lofty mountains.

My first essay in pursuit of grouse was made on

the range of mountains belonging to Lord Strathmore, some miles to the left of the pretty little town of Bowes (Yorkshire). I had taken up my quarters at a comfortable rustic inn facing the dark lowering hills above mentioned, on the 11th of August, and from the little parlor window watched the dusk of evening envelop them, with much more than ordinary interest. On retiring to rest, the thought of the morrow continued so busy in my brain as to force me to reject the balmy embrace of the drowsy god for a very considerable length of time; and when at length a semi-repose came over me, my thoughts, no longer under the influence of reason, still wandered amongst the alpine regions I was about to ascend. Long before the day dawned, I was roused from my reverie by my *guide* (a person well acquainted with the mountains is an indispensable auxiliary), who appeared as anxious for the expected sport as myself. After a *dejeune* or repast, hastily swallowed, we sallied forth; but when we reached the edge of the moor, the faint grey streaks of the eastern horizon afforded not half light sufficient to discern the flight of a bird. We paused. The scene, though enveloped in dense duskiness, was highly interesting; I could perceive the lofty mountains frowning through the deep gloom, while the dogs whined impatiently by my side, and the moor-cock uttered his early call, thus announcing the near approach of morning. At length day might be said to dawn; when through the heavy grey which still hung upon the hills, I saw the flash of a gun, and by the time the whizzing sound reached my ears, another flash blazed near the same spot; a proof that there were others more impatient than myself.

I placed my foot for the first time upon the grouse mountains, and my shoe was instantly filled with water, from the pearly drops with which

the heather was heavily laden: those who pursue the moor-cock must make up their mind to walk with wet feet. The dogs worked hard for nearly half an hour before they were able to recognise the proximity, or indeed the traces, of game: an old cock rose—I heard him chatter, but could not distinctly see him, and therefore did not fire. After some time, I was delighted to observe the dogs draw in a manner which left no doubt of game being before them. They stood; I went up to them, and paused in anxious suspense. They moved on: the birds were evidently running before them; and it was not till after some lapse of time, and the birds had run a quarter of mile that I heard the old cock give the signal for his family to rise; three of the brood rose quite within distance, yet they appeared so nearly the colour of the heath over which they flew, that my aim was confused, and I missed them. I could not mark them down, but my guide said he saw “them drop to an inch.” I could scarcely believe him; however, he had been used to the business, and smiled at my incredulity. He led me to the very spot. The dogs drew and immediately came to that sort of point which indicated that the game was under their noses. “Don’t be in a hurry, Sir,” said my guide. I took his advice, and picked doublets! I was delighted. I swallowed a sandwich and washed it down with all possible *gusto*.

Stainmoor (in Yorkshire), from being a free range, is inundated with shooters on the 12th of August. It is of very considerable extent, but that part of it which surrounds Old and New Spittal, and comes up to the town of Bowes, is the great resort, and in consequence accommodations are *not remarkably low in price*. I have repeatedly visited Stainmoor, but never obtained either good or satisfactory diversion. The last

time I was upon this fine moor (which is always well stocked with game prior to the shooting season, but on which the lead miners commence operations "before the gentlemen," to use their own phraseology), I could scarcely range one hundred yards without coming in contact with other shooters—the heather literally swarmed with dogs and shooters. I then bid farewell to Stainmoor.

Some miles to the south of these mountains, on the moors belonging to the Earl of Thanet (not far from Kirkby Stephen), I have more than once made a good bag.

There are many moors in Yorkshire upon which good diversion may be obtained; and I generally found the proprietors liberal, particularly Mr. Wyville.

But, after all, Scotland is the place for grouse shooting, and the means of conveyance by steam as eligible as possible. If the sportsman steam it to Edinburgh, he may steam it thence to Cromartie, where he will be landed from one of the finest bays in the world, in the Highlands, near to excellent grouse mountains. If he proceed from Liverpool to Glasgow in a steamer, he will soon find himself at the lower end of Loch Lomond. Sir James Colquhoun, Bart., and the Duke of Montrose, are the principal proprietors of the very rugged mountains in this neighbourhood; the former of whom is remarkably nice, observing "*the game is under strict preservation, and none but my particular friends are allowed to shoot.*" Lord Fife, Lord Glenorchy, nor perhaps any other moorland proprietor in "Bonny Scotland," would have returned such an answer to a "literary gentleman," at least I form such an opinion from the good-natured attention I have uniformly experienced in North Britain, with this sole exception.

That beautiful little variety of the deer, the roe, animates the scenery in the neighbourhood of Loch Lomond.

If the sportsman feels disposed to walk up the left bank of this extensive and beautiful lake, he will find the road arboreous and pleasant till he reaches Tarbet, beyond which, tracing the waters up to their source, it becomes very rugged ; in fact, he will find himself in a country of craggy alpine heights, with eagles soaring over them, and Ben Lomond rearing its majestic head far above the neighbouring mountains. Reaching at length the little rippling source of the expansive Loch Lomond, Crianlarich (Cree-en-la-Roche) comes in view, when turning to the left, a few miles will bring him to Glenorchy, where abundance of game may be found. On the boggy moor of Rannoch I have met with capital diversion, and good accommodation at the King's House Inn. The village of Tyndrum, embosomed in lofty mountains, is not far from Rannoch, in the vicinity of which good diversion may be obtained. If we proceed northward towards Glencoe, and pass through the gloomy dell of this name, cross the picturesque Loch Leven, leaving the Lochaber mountains on the right we come to Glengary's country, many parts of which, as well as the mountains opposite, abound with game. Indeed similar remarks are applicable to Rossshire and through Sutherlandshire till we reach Caithness, where the black game ceases to be found, but in some parts of which red grouse are extremely plentiful, as also golden plover and dotterel. Wild red deer and the roe, seen in many other parts of the Highlands, are not found beyond the Ord of Caithness, from which, up to Thurso, the country is flat by comparison. On an elevated ruin, which overlooks the Bay of Thurso, I once beheld the moon rise behind the Orkney Islands, her horns were filled, and as she emerged from the dark blue waters with fiery brightness, the appearance was magnificent.

In Sutherlandshire, some miles from Dunrobin Castle, I found game plentiful ; but if mere diver-

sion with the dog and gun be the object, I should advise the sportsman to continue on the southern side of the Firth of Dornoch (which I believe divides Sutherlandshire from Rossshire), as in many parts of the nearer Highlands black game and red grouse abound, ptarmigan are found on the grey tops of the mountains, while the roe and the red deer animate the various forests.

A stout gig and a hardy short-legged horse are highly desirable on a shooting excursion in the Highlands, where the main roads are excellent. Highland "inns" are dotted all over the country, whence the sportsman may diverge right or left, as the shooting may happen to be situated.

Hilly districts are remarkable for rain, and, therefore, those who visit the grouse mountains must expect a good soaking not unfrequently; yet more rain appeared to me to fall in the Highlands of Scotland (particularly in Lochaber) than in any part of the elevated regions of England which I have visited. I have frequently been driven from the Scotch hills by the rain, and been glad to seek shelter in the first human habitation I could meet with, where I was generally very kindly received. Occasionally I have passed the night in the Highland cottages, and always experienced comparative comfort; even when it so happened that the natives were unacquainted with the English language, they instantly understood my wants, and supplied me to the utmost of their power with respectful alacrity; I found them kind-hearted and hospitable; they always contrived to furnish me with refreshment, and also supplied my dogs with a good supper. The hospitality of the chieftains is proverbial, and I found it perfectly consonant to current report. Those who visit the Highlands, if they procure a letter of introduction to any person of rank or respectability, it will be found sufficient. The gentleman to whom it is addressed will furnish

another to forward the views of the stranger, and thus the Highlands of Scotland may be very pleasantly traversed.

In grouse shooting Eley's cartridge will be found remarkably convenient; the gun is loaded in a fourth part of the time as I have previously observed, which, in the drizzling rain, of such frequent occurrence on the moors, is of course extremely convenient; to say nothing of those long shots which grouse so frequently present, and which it is impossible to reach with the loose charge.

A Scene in Yorkshire.—"At two o'clock my attendant entered the room, and informed me it was time to rise, nor did I feel much reluctance in quitting a couch upon which I had been unable to obtain repose. In a short time an apology for a breakfast was placed before me, but the external prospect did not seem propitious, rain descended, and when daylight was expected, wet continued, and it might be said morning was not perceptible till twenty minutes after the estimated time. A little before five o'clock the rain subsided, a small blue space appeared in the horizon, and notwithstanding that the canopy was low and threatening, I sallied forth for the purpose of ranging the mountains. As we crossed the various *beds* or *sykes* (brooks which receive the water as it runs from the hills) we found them fordable, but on the rise, and, before I had bagged a single bird, rain again came on; as the wet fell but lightly, I continued to try for game; at length my dogs drew and stood, three birds rose, one of which I brought down; in about ten minutes another was bagged. The rain increased, but I persevered in endeavouring to keep the mountains; my gun missed fire—I was completely drenched with wet; when finding it impossible to get the gun to go, I at length gave up the business, and endeavoured to retrace my steps to Old Spittal. By this time I

had rambled several miles out upon the moor, and on my return I found the waters had increased very considerably in the *beds*, and continued rising very rapidly (from the supply still precipitated from the sides of the mountains). My attendant carried me over several of these rapidly running water courses, but we at length reached one so very deep, wider than usual, and with so strong a current, that carrying me appeared impracticable. No alternative remained, I therefore entered the stream, the water reached my middle, nor was it without difficulty I made my way to the other side, so great was the force of the current. Yet, after all, grouse shooting is incomparably superior to the pursuit of the partridge, or indeed to any other amusement where the fowling-piece is placed in a state of requisition."

The grouse, both black and red, found in Scotland, appeared larger and altogether finer birds than those met with in England, as if on the more lofty and the bolder mountains the birds attained a larger size. The female of the black cock is called the *grey hen*, and is about one-third smaller than the male. The black cock will reach nearly four pounds in weight, the moor-cock rarely exceeds one pound and a-half. Ptarmigan (white grouse) are still smaller.

Impatience generally forces sportsmen to the shooting ground much too soon on the 12th of August. If operations commence at nine o'clock, the game will be found easier, and will lie better than at an earlier period. The diversion may be continued till noon, till the heat of the sun induces the birds to become stationary, when the dogs exert themselves in vain. If no habitation be near, accommodation for rest and refreshment are offered in nature's simplest form; nor am I aware that I ever felt happier than when during such times of requisite reinvigoration, I have con-

templated the bold, wild, and extensive scene around me.

About three o'clock, perhaps, the birds will begin to move, which should be the signal to recommence business. As the movements of the birds increase, the sport will improve; and, of all times of the day, none is superior to from five o'clock to six.

A very worthy friend recommends wine as a beverage on the moors, but I cannot subscribe to this opinion—give me brandy. I have found wine to increase, rather than allay, thirst in grouse shooting, beneath the almost melting heat of the solar beams; while the genuine cognac, well diluted with water, answers the purpose. However, I would advise the sportsman to abstain altogether, if possible, from drinking (and eating also) till he sits down to rest at noon, and practise a similar abstinence from three o'clock till he retires from the mountains: he will find the benefit of such a system. On no account must cold water be drank—fatal results having been more than once produced by it. Grouse shooting is very laborious; whenever I have found myself overmarked, I procured tea as soon as possible—it never failed in its good effects; it is the most refreshing beverage that can be used after excessive fatigue.

If the old cock can be brought down at the first rise, the female and the young birds will not fly far, but will be easily found again, will lie well (having lost their leader), and consequently afford good diversion. The old cock always runs out from his family for some half-score yards or more, and chatters as he gets on the wing; as, therefore, he presents a long shot, I should always be prepared with an Eley in each barrel; with one of which I could reach him, and if I had the young birds before me, I could choose my time very deliberately on account of the longer and much more

certain range of these cased and very effective projectiles.

Grouse may be packed in heath or hops; but, if the distance be considerable to which they are to be sent, dried bladders are much superior; each bladder should contain one bird, the mouth should be sealed up, and by thus excluding the atmospheric air, the bird will keep much longer—no kind of game fades so soon as grouse.

PARTRIDGE SHOOTING.

IF we are compelled to range the moors and the mountains in search of the grouse, the partridge may be regarded as the emblem of cultivation, nor can the husbandman and the agriculturist be overstocked with these interesting and very useful birds, though persons unacquainted with their manners and habits are apt to entertain a different opinion. A few words will place the matter in a clear light. In a few hours (or at least the next day) after partridges are hatched, they are led forth by the parent birds to ant-hills, where they greedily swallow the eggs of these fierce and busy little insects; they also pick the insects which at this season are found adhering to blades of grass. If ant eggs are not procurable (which sometimes happens) they subsist entirely on the insects above-mentioned for several weeks, when, in addition to this fare, they devour small grubs and the smaller vermicular varieties. When the grass crops have fallen before the sweeping scythe, the whole family visit the after-grass fields morning and towards evening, for the purpose of feeding on the insects which frequently abound in the after-

math, and are always plentiful. Prior to this period, the covey were constrained to seek their insect fare generally amongst the growing grass crops, where their dexterous activity in thus appeasing the calls of hunger is concealed from human observation. When the atmosphere lowers, seeming to threaten rain, the insects, unable to mount on the wing, will be found in myriads adhering to blades of grass, forming a luxurious treat to which partridges never fail to do ample justice.

At length the corn crops are cut, when these birds will be found in the stubbles at certain times of the day, but they feed morning and evening in the grass till the severity of winter deprives them in a great degree of their insect supply. Partridges refuse all kinds of grain till other food has become remarkably scarce, when they feed in the stubbles, where they may find a few grains of corn, but they are still more intent on insect food. For a series of years I had an opportunity for ample and satisfactory observation, and I feel no hesitation in stating that partridges can only be induced to swallow a very few grains of wheat (which they prefer to any other kind of corn), and uniformly prefer insects (they are remarkably fond of the common fly) and ant eggs, in preference to any other aliment; they eat blades of grass, and also blades of young wheat, but never scratch up the newly sown grain. Were it not for insect-devouring birds (and partridges in particular), our corn-crops and fruits would be scarcely ever free from blight.

At the earliest dawn of the morning (in September, for instance) the sire of the covey utters the well-understood signal, and the family traverse the grass-lands in search of food; they thus continue their avocation for an hour, perhaps, or more, when the male bird calls the covey together, and leads them (on the wing) to turnips, cole, or

potatoes, particularly the latter, if there be a field of them in the neighbourhood. They traverse the potatoes for some time, and, about eight o'clock, they will lie, when the shooter may commence business, unless he chooses to wait till nine, which is much preferable. About ten they will be found in the stubbles, and will lie, and afford good diversion till noon, when they seek some bank (preferring light or sandy soil) with a southern aspect, for the purpose of basking. The shooter should suspend his labors, rest and refresh himself and his dogs; for, as the birds have ceased to run (in the intense heat of the day) the dogs, if forced to continue to hunt, are sure to spring them.

About three o'clock the birds will be on the move again, and may be sought in turnips, potatoes, &c. After some time, they get into the stubbles, and on the approach of evening traverse the grass fields, as in the morning; when the sportsman should retire—the birds will not lie when they are traversing the grass lands. As evening is about to shed her dusky mantle over the earth, the voice of the old cock will be heard again; he thus summonses his family to assemble around him. The call will be answered from various quarters, and the call and reply will be continued till the covey are drawn together, when the sire, having selected the sleeping spot, the hen and her young birds huddle closely round him, and become silent.

The old cock directs the motions of the covey; he is feelingly alive to its safety on all occasions; and while the moor-cock will frequently leave the brood to shift for themselves, the male partridge is the first to face danger, and never leaves his charge but with death. If the old cock be brought down at the first rise, the birds will not fly far, but will "lie like stones;" he generally rises in the midst of the covey, and is conspicuous from his superior size.

About the middle of October, partridges become tickle, and an Eley becomes requisite to drop them; in fact, a cartridge in the second barrel at the very commencement of the season is highly advisable.

Partridges are found more numerous on the light sandy soils than on the clay or stiff lands; hence Norfolk has always stood pre-eminent for abundance.

Partridges found on the cultivated parts of the *mosses* (morasses) of the north-west of England, are darker in color, and scarcely so large, as those found in the more elevated and better cultivated enclosures. On some of these mosses I have also met with a variety, where the long feathers on the breast and about the head of the male, were much paler than usual.

In some parts of the kingdom (principally in Norfolk and Suffolk, I believe) the red-legged or French partridge has been rendered indigenous. They are larger than the grey or common partridge, more beautiful in plumage, but, from their manner of running, I am told, do not afford such good diversion.

PHEASANT SHOOTING.

I EXCEEDINGLY regret that I cannot compliment this glittering bird, the pheasant, on its usefulness to the cultivator of the land, as I did the partridge in the previous chapter; yet is it less injurious to the crops of corn and pulse than its general character would seem to imply. In early life it feeds in the same manner as the partridge, but as it acquires strength, and the corn ripens, it is apt to make free with it, and is also fond of peas; further, the pheasant will scratch up the newly-sown wheat, if

not prevented, which, however, is easily effected by a boy with a clapper.

The pheasant is less prolific than the partridge; yet I once saw a hatch of eighteen. I never observed more than two-and-twenty partridges in one covey. This bird brings forth its young at the same time as the partridge, but, as they are considerably longer in coming to maturity, the season for shooting them does not commence till the first of October. Pheasants do not roost in trees till the approach of winter; while plenty of cover remains below, they sleep amongst rough grass, on well-sheltered banks, beneath bushes, &c.; but when the breath of winter deprives the hedges of their leaves, and vegetation shrinks before the withering progress of the frigid season, these birds betake themselves to trees for the purpose of passing the night. I never recollect observing a solitary tree chosen for the roosting place; a wood, plantation, or a collection of trees, in which the birds endeavour to shelter themselves from the wind, seems the favourite nightly resort; it seldom happens that a single pheasant is observed under such circumstances; on the contrary, numbers take up their quarters at the same place, sitting not far from each other.

When pheasants are found in hedge rows, after a wet night, they "lie like stones;" as also when they are met with under cover or brush-wood which fringes pits, very common in the north-west of England; but the tremendous rush and whirring of the bird when it springs is certain to unnerve the tyro; as he pauses over it (before rising), the dog motionless as a statue, and the whole affair characterised by a very deep, if not an appalling, stillness, his heart seems to rise, he can scarcely breathe, when up rushes the game with terrific violence, and before the bird presents a fair mark, bang goes the gun, without the least effect.

The way in which pheasants will frequently lie is truly astonishing. Some years ago, accompanied by a friend and a very steady old pointer bitch, I went out for the purpose of picking up some of these birds in the hedgerows, &c., and, after some time, having bagged a few, the bitch came to a point by the side of a pit; she had fixed herself quite close to a small bush, under which I was well aware the game was skulking. I looked into the bush, and observed a fine cock pheasant, his head concealed, an indication that he would not willingly spring; retiring for a few paces we sat down, and the bitch crouched on her belly. We swallowed each a sandwich, and having washed them down with a moderate pull at the flask, we rose, re-approached the spot, when, thrusting my foot into the bush, the bird rose, and was bagged as a matter of course.

Inexperienced shooters generally pull the trigger while the bird is struggling upward, and shoot under the mark. When pheasants get up, they rise perpendicularly for some yards, when they assume a horizontal position, and go off. The shooter should allow them to acquire the horizontal flight before he levels the gun, when they are very easily brought down. The male bird generally rises higher than the female.

WOODCOCK SHOOTING.

IF woodcocks be not the *avant couriers* of the autumnal gales, their appearance in this country indicates the near approach of winter. No doubt these birds reluctantly quit more northern regions (where they breed); nor is it till stern winter has dissipated all alimentary supply that they quit countries which had for some previous months afforded them security and abundance of food.

Woodcocks, flying before the Boreal blast, appear on our shores earlier or later, precisely as severe weather commences in more northern latitudes; so that when these birds are seen amongst us sooner than usual, hard weather may be anticipated accordingly. I have observed woodcocks on the north-west coast as early as September; however, in general, they are found more numerous in the early part of November than at any other time. They hide themselves during the day as much as possible from human observation in well-sheltered ditches, by the sides of pits fringed with brushwood, and also in woods; they are never met with amongst sedges, but uniformly seek a clear bottom, and are remarkable for preferring the holly bush, on account of the clear bottom and its warm and almost impervious protection.

On the approach of evening woodcocks, sluggish and inactive during the day, become alert, get on the wing, and sally forth in quest of food; those who have observed the aerial movements of these birds during the day only would feel much surprised at the quickness of their turns and the

rapidity of their flight in the twilight, or beneath the chilling beams of the moon.

While the weather continues open, woodcocks will be found in hedge-rows, small plantations, &c. ; but should a severe frost set in, they seek the shelter of the woods and stronger covers, where the ground still remains sufficiently soft for them to *bore* for worms and other subterranean food. If on such occasions there happens to be a spring, watercourse, or pit, these birds will necessarily resort to it.

Cock shooting in cover, with a well-trained team of spaniels, is delightful amusement—the sport seems more animating than any other ramification of the chase where the fowling-piece becomes an important auxiliary. For hedge-row shooting I prefer the pointer or setter.

The woodcock is the easiest to bring down of any of those birds which come under the description of game. When flushed from a ditch, the signal is given by a sluggish flapping of the wings, the bird rises reluctantly and heavily, flies slowly by the side of the hedge, and if missed, will generally drop again at a short distance, perhaps 200 yards. I have many scores of times seen them drop in the same ditch at half that distance. The bird will thus, if repeatedly missed, give the shooter an opportunity of evincing his dexterity several times, increasing the distance of his flight each time, till at length, tired of being teased, he rises high and wildly, and goes completely away.

The dark-coloured woodcock, who is the first to make his appearance in this country on the approach of winter, and is the smallest variety which visits us, I have always found much wilder than his larger fraternity. It would appear that three sorts of cocks come amongst us, at least I have often noticed three sizes, varying in plumage ;

the largest is the lightest in colour, and altogether the most beautiful.

When cocks are flushed in woods, it will frequently happen that they are compelled to fly higher than usual to clear the trees, and on such occasions present the most difficult shot.

The proximity of the woodcock is generally indicated by his chalking.

These birds never willingly get on the wing during the day, because, although their eyes appear so beautiful, their vision in a broad glare of light is very imperfect: like the owl, they distinguish objects very acutely in twilight, and also by the soft beams of the moon; but when the night has been very dark and stormy, the woodcocks are unable to procure food, and the next day will be restless and on the wing, impelled by the cravings of hunger.

If a cock be met with in foggy weather he never flies far.

The woodcock falls from a slight wound; but does not, like the partridge, expire from a blow on the head against the gun-stock; the moor-cock instantly dies from being pricked at the back of the head with one of his own sharp-pointed small feathers, so the woodcock should be pricked immediately behind the joint which unites the wing to the body.

On the approach of Spring, woodcocks leave the interior of the country for the vicinity of the sea, where they wait for a favourable wind, and commence their return during the night. On the Lancashire side of the Irish Channel, I, one afternoon in the early part of March, bagged three couple and a-half of these birds, and was compelled to suspend my diversion for want of light. The next morning not a bird was to be found.

SNIPE SHOOTING.

THE snipe, whose conformation and appearance so much resemble the woodcock, is nevertheless a bird of different habits. The former is fond of moist rushy fields, the sides of sedgy pits, bogs, &c.; the latter uniformly selects a clear bottom. Snipes are more gregarious than woodcocks; for, although the latter traverse the ocean in company, they are singly found. Snipes fly and feed together for the most part in *wisps*.

Snipes breed in some of our extensive marshes, and particularly in the Isle of Man; but by far the greater part retire to more northern regions for this purpose.

These birds are capricious in their movements: in places where one day they may be met with in abundance, the next not a single snipe can be found. Hard weather forces them to springs and running streams.

The jack snipe, or judcock, is scarcely half the size of the common snipe, and is hardly worth notice.

The solitary snipe is twice the size of the common snipe, but rarely met with.

The snipe is a difficult shot. These birds should be sprung down the wind; they will not fly far with the wind in their tails, but will turn and present a steady cross-shot, having ceased the jerking twiddling mode of flying to which they resort on rising.

HARE AND RABBIT SHOOTING.

THE "poor timid hare," though scarcely a legitimate object for the leaden death, has nevertheless been so long and so generally subjected to the operation of the deadly tube, that I must not pass her in silence. When a hare gets up before the shooter, he should be careful to direct his aim sufficiently forward, as this extraordinary little animal will carry away an abundance of shot, if struck in the quarters; a few pellets about the head or immediately behind the fore leg are sure to stop her. After what has been previously stated respecting the mode of presenting the gun, aiming, &c., further observation is unnecessary.

Rabbits are frequently driven from their subterranean retreats by a ferret, for the purpose of affording amusement with the gun; but these flirting little creatures give much better sport in such hedge-rows as are well stocked with them, which will be frequently found the case at a short distance from open warrens. A steady terrier or cur should be employed to drive them out of the hedge bottoms; and, although in general deliberation is advisable, the shooter in this case cannot be too quick; the rabbit darts out, flirts a few yards as rapidly as possible, and jumps into the hedge again or disappears; therefore, if the sportsman does not fire immediately the object is presented to him, he has no chance of killing. Rabbits should never be shot over a setting dog, or, indeed, hares either.

WILD FOWL SHOOTING

OFFERS a very different subject for consideration to the pursuit of those birds already noticed; for, while the latter are approached through the sagacious instrumentality of the dog, the former, for ever on the watch, wild and suspicious in their habits, are to be captured by ambuscade and surprise. Hence, in the excogitations of ancient writers, which have been handed down to us through the medium of the press, we are presented with accounts of the employment of the *stalking horse* for the purpose of approaching wild fowl, under which aggregate description are classed all those web-footed tribes which are met with in our marshes and on our shores, as well as those *waders* in whose company they are frequently necessarily associated.

Vast quantities of these aquatic birds are found on various parts of the coast of the kingdom during winter, many of which, in severe weather, appear on our lakes and rivers and in our marshes. The wild swan, the largest of them, associates generally in *herds*, and is more difficult of approach than the goose (who, however, is sufficiently wary), or any of the smaller kinds of wild fowl. The *stalking-horse* disappeared before the progress of superior knowledge, and at length the patent wire cartridge, by increasing, *in an incredible degree*, the range and effect of the fowling-piece, has brought these very watchful birds within the sportsman's reach, in a manner that seems to bid defiance to improvement.

As to the cartridges best calculated for wild fowl shooting, those who follow this diversion will do well to apply to the patentee, and describe his shooting locality, and the kind of birds which offer themselves to his notice. I have been informed that Colonel Hawker uses for his shore shooting, with a stancheon gun, a cartridge, weighing twelve ounces of large shot, with which, it appears, he makes terrific havoc, at more than double the distance he was ever before able to reach swans, brent geese, ducks, widgeons, curlews, and all those aquatic fowls which feed on the mud savannas of the sea shore.

But as far as *diversion* is concerned, I hesitate not to give the preference to the pursuit of those aquatic fowls who visit our lakes, rivers, fens, and marshes. In such places I have many times observed herds of swans; gaggles of geese are to be met with every winter, as well as great numbers of ducks, widgeons, and some teal; swans visit the interior of the country only in very hard weather.

If we take an extensive lake for our scene of action, we shall find that during the day these birds continue on the water out of the reach of danger; and, although noisy at times, particularly the duck, remain in a state of comparative inactivity till the approach of evening, when they get on the wing and fly about in search of food, but never going far from the water. I have seen geese and ducks come into the neighbouring stubbles, though in general they seek subsistence nearer the edge of the lake, and particularly in the watercourses, and soft oozy ditches. They continue to fly and feed for some hours, according as the weather is mild or severe, and the supply of food consequently plentiful or scanty; when they have satisfied the cravings of appetite, they take up their abode for the night (sometimes on the margin of the lake), and at dusky morn fly and feed again, as on the previous evening.

Those who follow wild fowl shooting therefore,

aware of the habits of the birds, station themselves in places where they expect them to pass, and take their chance for diversion.

If a severe frost continue so as to incrust the lake firmly with ice, these birds, constrained by hunger, are on the move throughout the day, in search of food, and will allow the shooter to approach much nearer than when the weather has become more open; on such occasions, with an appropriate Eley, very satisfactory diversion may be obtained, infinitely superior to what can be procured by the old-fashioned system of loose charge of large shot or small bullets.

Under such circumstances, ducks in particular resort to the unfrozen brooks and streams, up which the shooter should proceed as silently and as softly as possible. Great numbers of these birds seek the rivers, and various devices are used for approaching them. Such parts of these larger streams as are influenced by the tide, are much resorted to by wild fowl. Masses of ice and snow float up with the rising tide, and return with its ebbing: if a boat be disguised so as to resemble these floating masses, the shooter (prepared with his swivel gun and a large hand-piece) may allow himself (concealed as much as possible of course) to be carried into the midst of the unsuspecting game, and pour his artillery upon it accordingly.

Shore shooting is a very different business, and is beautifully described by Gilpin:—"The coast between Hampshire and the Isle of Wight is peculiar, consisting, at ebb tide, of vast muddy flats, covered with green sea weed: it affords the fowler an opportunity of practising arts perhaps not elsewhere resorted to. Fowling and fishing are, indeed, on this coast commonly the employment of the same person. He, who in summer, with his line and net plies the shores when they are overflowed by the tide, in winter, with his gun, as evening draws on, runs up his boat among the little creeks which

the tide leaves in the mud lands, and lies in patient expectation of his prey. Sea fowl usually feed by night, where in all their multitudes they come to graze on the savannas of the shore. As the sonorous cloud advances (for their noise in the air resembles a pack of hounds in full cry) the attentive fowler listens which way they bend their course; perhaps he has the mortification to hear them alight at too great a distance for his gun to reach them, and if he cannot edge his boat round some winding creek, which is not always in his power to do, he despairs of success that night; perhaps, however, he is more fortunate, and has the satisfaction to hear the airy noise approach nearer, till at length the host settles upon some plain upon the edge of which his boat is moored; he now, as silently as possible, primes both his pieces anew (for he is generally double armed), and listens with all his attention. It is so dark that he can take no aim, for, if he could discern the birds, they would also see him, and, being exceedingly timorous, would seek some other pasture. Though they march with noise they feed in silence; some indistinct noises, however, if the night be still, issues from so vast a concourse; he directs his piece, therefore, towards the sound, fires at a venture, and instantly catching up his other gun, discharges it where he supposes the flock to rise on the wing. His gains for the night are now decided, and he has only to gather up his harvest; he immediately puts on his mud pattens (flat square pieces of board, which the fowler ties to his feet that he may not sink in the ooze), ignorant yet of his success, and goes groping about in the dark in quest of his booty, picking up sometimes many, and perhaps not one. So hardly does the poor fowler earn a few shillings, exposed in an open boat during a solitary winter's night to the weather as it comes, rain, hail, or snow, on a bleak coast, a league probably from the beach, and often liable, without great

care, to be fixed in the mud, where he would become an inevitable prey to the returning tide. I have heard (continues Mr. Gilpin) one of these poor fellows say, he never takes a dog with him in these expeditions, because no dog could bear the cold which he is obliged to suffer; and after all, others frequently enjoy more from his labors than himself, for the tide often throws, next day, on different parts of the shore, many of the birds which he had killed, but could not find in the night.

“The danger of attacking the wild fowl in their small boats is considerably increased when there is much ice in the river, by which they sometimes get encircled, and then can only float with the current, and are often kept two or three tides before they can extricate themselves; and their punt is ill calculated to sustain pressure against its sides, which are not twenty inches high from the surface of the water: in this the punter by night drops down with the tide, or uses his paddles after the fowl; he knows their haunts, and takes every advantage of wind, tide, moon, &c.; his gun, which carries as much as a little cannon, is laid with the muzzle over the stern of the punt, in a hitch, which regulates the line of aim. At the bottom of the punt he lies upon his belly, and gets as near the route of the fowl as are upon the water as possible; when within the range of his gun, he rattles with his feet against the bottom of his punt, and when the fowl begin to spring at this unexpected sound, at that moment he pulls the trigger, and cuts a lane through their ranks; he instantly follows the direction of his shot, and gathers up those that are killed or just expiring, for very seldom he makes it answer to row after fowl that are only wounded: he then charges his gun and drifts farther down the river, in hopes of a second, third, and successive shots.

“In following wildfowl, it is easier to get within twenty yards of them by going to leeward, than a

hundred and fifty if directly to windward, so very acute is their sense of smelling.

"The best time, therefore, to have sport with a canoe and a shoulder gun (provided it be low water, or half ebb, while you are hid in the creeks) is in clear, frosty, moonlight nights, when the wind happens to blow towards you as you face the moon. It is then impossible for the wildfowl to smell you; and you may, by getting them directly under the light, have the most accurate outline of every bird, and even distinctly see them walking about, at a much greater distance than a gun could do execution. From thus being on the shining mud banks, they appear quite black, except some of the old cock widgeon, on the wings of which the white is often plainly to be seen.

It does not follow, however, that nothing can be done without a bright moon. So far from it, that the old Poole men, among whom there were, formerly, some of the best shoulder gunners in the kingdom, prefer but little moon, even for the mud. Here, by constant habit, they can easily distinguish the black phalanxes of widgeon from the shades on the places they frequent, and particularly if they are feeding among the puddles, which have been left by the tide.

"CURRES.—We will now make a few short observations on the birds usually killed in this way. I will begin with the "*curres*" (a provincial term for all the various tribe of diving ducks), as they appear about October. These birds, when accustomed to the skirmishers of the coast, are sometimes worse to get at than any others; and you have then often no other alternative than paddling up a winding creek, so as to suddenly pop on them in turning a corner, and fire either sitting or just as they fly up. But when curres are, by frost, just driven to the coast from under the kind protection of some bird fancier's pond, they are a fine prey for a swivel

gun, provided you hide the flash ; get their heads up before you shoot ; and are well armed with little double detonaters, to work away at the "cripples," after you have stocked the water with them, by the discharge of your artillery. For thus finishing the business, the percussion system is a *sine quâ non*, as these birds are sure to "duck the flash" after, if not before, being wing broken ; and they will, when wounded, shrug themselves up so much, that you ought to get within fifteen yards, before you give them the *coup de grace*. Hundreds of sportsmen would be glad to take a punt, and follow you, on a fine sunshiny day for this purpose ; while you might either sit still and enjoy the fun, or be proceeding for some other attack. But the business must be done as quick as possible ; or one half of the cures will be off, while you are killing the others. Cartridges and all other expeditious means are here desirable. *Curres* most frequently keep afloat, instead of going on the mud.

"BRENT GESE.—Towards November, or December, we have the brent geese, which are always wild, unless in very hard weather. In calm weather the geese have the cunning, in general, to leave the mud, as soon as the tide flows high enough to bear an enemy, and then they go off to sea, and feed on the drifting weeds. But when it blows so fresh, that they cannot weather it long enough to feed outside of the harbour, they then continue inside the whole day ; though they most frequently take especial care to weather almost anything, rather than trust themselves there at night ; except when they are very short of food. If therefore you have water over the mud for your punt, you may often make a tolerable shot by setting, or sailing, even in mild weather, particularly when the tide has kept up high, and the geese, having become hungry, are just getting their legs, at the first ebb ; and still more so if this happens towards sunset, when they

feed greedily previous to leaving the harbour for the night.

“HOOPERS, OR WILD-SWANS.—When the winter further advances, and the birds are driven from Holland and the Baltic to the more genial climate of the south; and then followed by severe weather to the refuge they have chosen, their last alternative is to leave the fens, ponds, and decoys, and betake themselves to the sea coast, in order to avoid starvation. Then, and then only, it is, that all this diversion may be enjoyed in perfection, and without much trouble or difficulty. We have then a variety of all kinds of wildfowl, and sport for every shooter. And it is at such a time as this only we can expect to see the monarch of the tribe, the hooper, or wild-swan. We had the winter before last a fine specimen of all this on the Hampshire coast, the flats of which, off Keyhaven and Pennington, were, for some weeks, covered with ice and snow. Nothing could be more novel or beautiful than the appearance of the harbour, which was one solid region of ice, crowned with pyramids that had formed themselves of the drifted snow, and frozen like crystals; and, on the thaw, the harbour appeared like one huge floating island, as the ice which covered it was carried off by the fall of a high spring-tide. And to see this huge body, with the wild swans sitting upon it, while it receded, and looking as if formed by nature for the only inhabitants of such a dreary region, gave the spectator more the idea of a voyage to the arctic circle, than the shore of a habitable country. When the large bodies of ice were carried off, and nothing remained but those of a smaller size, the whole harbour was, of course, in arms with shooters, and had almost the appearance of a place that was besieged. The following morning, though it blew very hard, and poured with rain, every one was in arms for seven of the swans that again appeared,

anxiously hoping that they might swim, or fly, near enough for a random shot; though the punters, from drawing too much water, required at least another half hour's flood before they could make the difficult attempt of getting at them in open day. By having a punt which drew less water than theirs, it was, therefore, my lot to have the first chance, if no one fired off a gun, in order to spoil the shot, which is a very common practice on this, and many other coasts. I, therefore, took the precaution of getting well round to windward, and when I had arrived as much to windward as one dare go to wildfowl, having previously covered myself and my man with clean white linen, and a white nightcap, to appear the colour of the snow, we floated down among the small pans of white ice that were constantly drifting to leeward; and, by this means, had a couple in the boat, and another that afterwards dropped dead, just as the other punts were coming up. In giving further directions about swans, I must observe, that to take a sitting shot you need never be hurried, as these birds can never rise above the level of any swivel-gun till they have beat the water for several yards, in order to get their huge bodies on the wing. To shoot them flying make all possible haste to row (or if on land, to run) till you get under them, as they fly very low, and will seldom break their course; and, therefore, may be frequently killed by surrounding them with boats, and having a gunning punt in advance, ready to fire as they pass. We afterwards got two more of them by this means. Be careful, however, always to let a swan pass you so as to shoot under his feathers, or you may as well fire at a wool-pack."—*Hawker*.

DISEASES OF DOGS.

It is more than probable that the dog of the forest, like all animals existing in a state of primeval simplicity, is subject to few diseases; but when he becomes the associate of man, of civilized man in particular, and adopts a semi-artificial mode of life, he is rendered liable to disorders which are sure to follow such an outrage upon, or adulteration of, the genuine physiology of this highly interesting animal. Yet our domesticated dogs are not afflicted with half the diseases which have been arrayed against them by most of those who have written on the subject, chiefly for "book-making," beyond all question such persons being utterly destitute of the requisite practical information.



THE DISTEMPER.

The peculiar affliction of the dog, known by the name of the *distemper*, like the small-pox in the human species, generally makes its appearance in early life, and I scarcely ever knew an instance of a dog escaping it. The animal is very rarely afflicted with it a second time, one instance only falling under my observation during many years of extensive observation. I never knew the distemper to present itself while whelps were sucking, but from the time they quit the teat it may be expected, and will generally appear before the animal has attained his first year, often during the period between his fifth

and ninth month. On the approach of this canine scourge, the dog will be dull, his eyes will appear less bright than usual, a languidness will pervade his whole system, and his appetite will fail, or he may, perhaps, refuse his food altogether, he will be also troubled with a great degree of constipation; this is the first stage of the disease in question. The distemper makes its way by inflammation, accompanied by costiveness, and, therefore, reason clearly points out the necessity of checking the one and removing the other. Bleed the animal immediately, and give him a table-spoonful of syrup of buckthorn, which will most likely answer the purpose effectually: if, after the lapse of a few days, the dog does not appear perfectly recovered, repeat the bleeding and the physic; a third time if found necessary, which will not often happen—not once in five hundred cases. By the process above described, the disease is checked and subdued in the first instance; it cannot, when thus opposed, acquire strength, and is, therefore, easily vanquished or dissipated. Such a mode of treatment is incontestibly supported by reason, since nothing can tend so effectually to check inflammation as lowering the system. The animal should be bled very freely—in fact it is almost impossible to take too much blood from a dog under such circumstances. Supposing the subject to be a stout pointer whelp, seven or eight months old, about five ounces of blood should be taken from him. A table spoonful of syrup of buckthorn will be found a proper dose for such an animal, and the quantity may be varied according to the age and strength of the patient.

The operation of bleeding a dog should be thus performed: place a cord round the animal's neck, and draw it sufficiently tight so as to throw up or elevate the jugular vein; puncture it *longitudinally* (not cross-wise) with a common lancet, and, for the purpose of causing the blood to flow, the finger

should be pressed on the vein a little below the orifice. When sufficient blood has been drawn, the puncture need not be pinned, nor any way closed, as the dog by holding down his head draws the lips of the wound together, and the blood forms a crust upon it immediately; hence the reason of puncturing the vein longitudinally, since if cut cross-wise, the dog will pull the wound open every time he holds down his head, particularly in feeding:

If the distemper be suffered to proceed beyond the first stage, the dog will be afflicted with a husky cough, a running at the nose and also at the eyes will come on, attended with an offensive smell; symptoms which will continue to increase (if the animal be left to his fate) till he begins to reel and fall; at length he becomes unable to stand, emits a most offensive effluvium, his sufferings are very severe, and he ultimately expires from exhaustion. A dog will sometimes survive the distemper, if he have not been fed too highly, and is allowed his liberty in the homestead or fields; under such circumstances the animal will act the part of his own physician to a certain extent, by eating broad blades of grass, &c., which operate as an emetic, and, perhaps, as a cathartic also—so kind and bountiful is nature!

If, during the progress of the disease, the dog be confined, the distemper will kill him—in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, as I well know from experiment. If a dog be allowed to contract the distemper to a considerable extent, if he happen to survive it, either by the aid of human assistance or otherwise, its effects will frequently be perceived afterwards in muscular twitchings or positive lameness, during, perhaps, the remainder of the animal's life.

I am well aware that there are persons who profess or pretend to a knowledge of curing the distemper, about which they in general affect an air of mystery; there are several *reputed* specifics for it

also advertised: they altogether amount to nothing. The nature of the disease, and particularly its mode of approach, should constitute the first object of consideration, since it is generally and very justly admitted, that "when a disorder is understood it may be considered as half cured;" so, after what has been stated in the preceding pages on this subject, let the reader judge for himself.

Where there are several young dogs, and one happens to contract the distemper, the rest should be inoculated immediately, having a dose of physic administered at the same time. The disease is thus rendered much milder. A little mucus taken from the nose of the affected animal and inserted in the nostrils of the others will effectually answer the purpose. Vaccine inoculation has been recommended for the prevention of distemper in dogs: I tried the experiment repeatedly, but did not find it satisfactory. The distemper is highly contagious.

When a dog has been severely affected with distemper, fits will sometimes follow. These fits will generally give way to copious venesection and physic, as already described; but should they continue, the unfortunate animal should be destroyed, or the affliction may produce that dreadful malady, *canine madness*, erroneously denominated *hydrophobia*.



WORMS.

Dogs, particularly when young, are subject to worms, which, as they produce various appearances in the afflicted animal, so have these appearances been ramified into *lank madness*, *sleeping madness*, and other designations equally ignorant and equally ridiculous. The dog is troubled with

various kinds of worms ; but, inasmuch as linseed oil, though generally so innocent in its effects, is deadly poison to the vermicular tribe, and operating as a mild purgative on the dog, a better vermifuge cannot be recommended. Half a tea-cupful of raw linseed oil should be given to the dog early in the morning, when his stomach is empty ; but as some of these vermin will have their heads buried in the coats of the stomach or intestines, they will be apt to escape the influence of the oil, and therefore the dose should be repeated every other morning till the dog has taken the oil three times.

Calomel is generally recommended for destroying worms in dogs, and so it undoubtedly will, but it must be repeated till the system of the animal is partially poisoned also ; for instance, if mercurial ointment be rubbed on the dog so that the system be sufficiently poisoned (by imbibition), the worms will be destroyed as certainly as if calomel had been administered through the stomach ; to be brief, in destroying worms by calomel, you punish the dog very much, if not risk his life ; while linseed oil is quicker in its operations, equally effective, and its administration attended with no evil, or even unpleasant consequences.

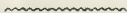
A dog afflicted with worms becomes lean, though he will often feed voraciously ; but if no remedy be applied, his appetite will forsake him in a great degree ; he will appear dull, and will manifest an almost continual inclination for slumber, without being able to sleep soundly.

THE COMMON MANGE.

This disorder (extremely infectious) is originally produced by damp sleeping situations, dirty beds, bad food, and filth in general. It much resembles the itch in human beings, and is too well known to need particular description. Its cure is not difficult. Mix

Oil of tar,
Sulphur vivum,
Train oil,

Of each an equal quantity, with which well rub the dog several times, a day elapsing between each rubbing. A little sulphur given internally will be of service. If the dog attempt to lick himself let him be muzzled.



THE RED MANGE.

This disorder is not infectious, even amongst dogs lying together, but is invariably communicated by a bitch to her whelps. It is a most obstinate and malignant disease, and will frequently re-appear after having apparently been completely cured. The incessant and severe itching, accompanied by an almost burning heat, causes the dog to bite and scratch himself to such a degree as to give the affected part a fiery appearance with a consequent loss of hair. Fortunately the red mange is not of frequent occurrence. It may be cured in the following manner: let half an ounce of corrosive sub-

limate be reduced in a glass mortar to an impalpable powder ; to this, by a very small quantity at a time, add two ounces (half a gill) of spirit of wine, and lastly one pint of rain or river water ; with a sponge dipped in the solution, let every part palpably affected be well washed every third day till thrice performed ; then let three days elapse, and repeat the course of application. The animal's body should be kept open with a few doses of mild physic.

THE HYDROPHOBIA.

It is quite a mistaken notion that canine madness, called by the French *la rage*, and in this country distinguished by the appellation of hydrophobia, causes the dog to shun water or fluids ; on the contrary, he will drink oftener than usual when laboring under this dreadful disease either water, milk, broth, &c., as I have more than once witnessed. In the first stage of this disorder the animal will scrape his bed together, dispose it under him in various forms, shift his posture incessantly, start up and eagerly gaze at some real or imaginary object. He will snap at anything within his reach, even at the hand of his master, or of those with whom he is well acquainted, and the next moment (as if his faculties returned) will move his tail, and look pleased. He will swallow straws, dirt, and even stones ; will gnaw his kennel or any wood he can reach, will often fall into a sort of delirium, during which his eyes present an indescribable glassy glare, which those who have seen will not easily forget. He recovers himself in a short time, a minute perhaps, and testifies his consciousness by personal recognition, the movement of his tail, and indeed by all his accustomed

Cold and Cough.

Antimonial powder, five grains;
Calomel, four grains;

Made with honey into two boluses, and given in the evening for two nights successively.

Scab in the Ears.

Rub mercurial ointment on the affected part every two or three days.

Canker in the Lips.

Rub the affected parts with alum water two or three times a day; or, bole ammoniac and alum.

Films in the Eye.

Bathe them twice a day with water, in which a little vitriol has been dissolved (the size of a large horse-bean to a pint of spring water), and in a minute or two wash them with clean water.

Sprains.

They should be well rubbed twice a-day with the following:—

Camphor, one drachm;
Brandy, one ounce.

When the camphor is dissolved, add one ounce of sweet oil, and shake them well together. As sprains are attended with inflammation, this should be subdued in the first place by fomenting with warm water.

For Wounds, and to stop an Effusion of Blood,

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Spirit of sal ammoniac, | } | Equal parts. |
| Opodeldoc, | | |
| Sweet nitre, | | |
| Spirit of turpentine, half quantity. | | |

Sore Feet.

Wash with warm water and soap during the heat of the weather. In the more advanced period of the season salt and water.

To bring Hair upon a Scalded Place.

Rub frequently with fresh hogs' lard, or any kind of animal oil.

To destroy Fleas, Lice, or Ticks.

Linseed oil. For ticks, it will require to be well rubbed in—even with a currycomb, so tenaciously do these vermin bury their heads in the dog's skin.

For Dogs that have taken Poison.

Any kind of vegetable oil, given copiously.

For the Bite of an Adder, &c.

The same.

Burns and Scalds.

Goulard's extract of lead, two drachms ;

Water, half a pint.

After the third or fourth day the blisters should be opened, but the skin not removed, and dressed with the following:—

Olive oil, half an ounce ;

Goulard's extract of lead, one ounce.

Lameness in the Shoulder

Is generally brought on by damp kennels, for which warmth is the best remedy.

A dog never perspires, and on this account is more liable to disease. Whenever a dog is perceived to be dull and languid, he should be bled and receive a dose of physic, by which most, if not all, his diseases will be prevented.

ADVICE TO GAMEKEEPERS.

THERE is perhaps no avocation in life more pleasant to the feelings of those who pursue it than that of gamekeeper; such an individual while following his business may be said to luxuriate in the greatest enjoyment possible. In offering a few observations to keepers, and those who feel an interest in the preservation of game, I wish to draw their attention in the first place to the production of those interesting animals thus denominated, and to the relative position of the landholder, and the influence which necessarily falls into his hands, which may be exercised during the period of nestling to a most destructive extent, and that too in a manner so as to render positive detection almost impossible: I allude to the destruction of the eggs of the pheasant and the partridge. It consequently behoves the gamekeeper to cultivate the friendship of the farmer, from whose good offices the most beneficial effects can scarcely fail to result, not only in regard to the breeding season, but also as relates to the poacher and the intrusion of improper persons in pursuit of game. It sometimes unfortunately happens that a cat will begin to ramble from a farm house into the fields, in which case little time will elapse before she brings home a leveret—for cats of this description return with their plunder in the early part of their predatory career. Such cats I have known to become favorites with the farmer or a part of his family, perhaps the whole of it; when it requires all the address of the keeper to get rid of a creature

so injurious to his hopes in a manner so as to avoid offence to the owner.

If a cat of this kind be suffered to continue her excursions, she will gradually increase the distance from home till she utterly forsakes her wonted abode, adopts a savage mode of life, betakes herself to the woods and strong covers, where her depredations are carried on in comparative security during the breeding season and throughout the summer. She is thus enabled not only to kill leverets, but to seize the sitting pheasant or partridge on the nest, and the mischief which must necessarily ensue is incalculable, but must be extensive. Further, it may happen when a rambling cat quits her home that she is in a state of gestation; she consequently brings forth in the woods, or other covers, when the wants of her family redouble her destructive exertions, and the mischief increases in proportion to the number of her kittens, who as they gain strength necessarily acquire the habits of their parent, and increase the evil accordingly. Be it not forgotten that feline animals in general are scantily supplied with milk, and are therefore constrained to make up the alimentary deficiency from other sources, as well as to train up their young to early habits of depredation. Such cats become completely wild, nor is the genuine wild cat to be found perhaps in any part of England at the present day, though I have seen it in the Highlands of Scotland.

If we regard the creature above described as the most destructive animal amongst game known in this country, we next come to the martern, which is thinly scattered all over the kingdom, and is particularly found in those parts of England where extensive woods afford a degree of security which it could not procure in the more open parts of the country. This animal is fond of climbing trees, in pursuit of the squirrel, or at least in search of its nest, since it has no chance of overtaking that

pretty little animal amongst the branches of the trees; but it may surprise it in its *dray* (nest) or seize and devour its young. The martern is very destructive to game, particularly to pheasants. This creature would seem to form that link in the chain of animated nature, which unites the feline tribe to the polecat and the varieties of the weasel.

The habits of the polecat, the weasel, and the stoat, are too well known to need particular description; they are all predaceous, insatiably sanguinary, and very destructive to game, seizing the hare or the leveret on the seat, and also the partridge and the pheasant while sitting on the eggs; but as these fierce creatures are determined enemies of rats and mice, they are not unfrequently suffered to remain unmolested by the farmer, who only looks at one side of the question, and does not consider the havoc they make in the eggs and the young of the domestic poultry. Where there are foxes, neither the wild cat, the martern, nor any of the predaceous animals already noticed, will be numerous, as renard shows them no mercy whenever they come in his way. The depredations of the fox amongst game amount to very little where rabbits are procurable; he can pursue the rabbit to its subterranean retreat and dig it out; indeed the rabbit seems the favourite food of the fox.

Of all predaceous birds, none is more to be dreaded by the gamekeeper than the *rook*. During the season of the year in which the partridge and the pheasant deposit their eggs, rooks are for ever on the look out for their nest; they will greedily devour the eggs, and for this purpose will force the sitting bird from the nest, and gobble up her treasure. As the rook associates himself, as it were, with human nature, he becomes a sort of licensed marauder, and though he may benefit the cultivator of the land by the number of grubs which he destroys, particularly those of the chafer beetle, the

gamekeeper has much to fear from his depredations during the egg season.

The carrion crow is equally fond of eggs, for which, like the rook, it keeps constantly on the look out; but, aware that as it seeks the eggs of the partridge or the pheasant, it has every thing to dread from the keeper or his assistants, it watches the human approach with suspicion from stations where it is impossible to get within gun-shot without being seen.

The magpie and also the jackdaw are equally fond of eggs, nor does the former bird hesitate to strike the newly hatched young of the partridge if they come in its way.

The hawk tribe, of which there are several varieties found in the kingdom, never seek the eggs of game, but as they seem to prefer the partridge to all other birds for their prey, the keeper should spare no pains to get rid of such visitors, who, if undisturbed, will soon form settlements where game is plentiful. The kestrel or wind-hover is met with in all parts of the kingdom, and is recognised from the manner of its keeping its position in the air, while it is looking below for mice, frogs, &c. It is a bird of slow flight; although I am not aware it ever pursues the partridge on the wing, yet it contrives to kill these birds occasionally, as also small leverets.

The sparrow hawk is a very fierce and a very swift-flying bird, whose depredations are to be dreaded. Similar remarks may be applied to the hobby, which, however, is mostly met with in the fenny districts and on the moors, and is seldom seen in the midland counties.

The larger hawks of this country, such as the kite or glead, the buzzard, and the hen harrier, they are more destructive amongst the young of hares and rabbits than injurious to winged game.

Of owls there are two kinds found in England,

the white and the brown; the former inhabiting barns and castellated ruins, the latter choosing the shelter of the woodlands and hollow trees. These night hawks sally forth at dusk, and flying slowly only a yard or two above the surface of the ground, are enabled to surprise small leverets, and also the young of partridges and pheasants.

The limits of this little volume will not allow me to go into the requisite detail of the capture or destruction of the predaceous creatures precedingly noticed, therefore I hesitatingly refer to another publication, "Johnson's Gamekeeper's Directory," where the requisite information will be found; where the manners of these winged and quadrupedal vermin are particularly described, and where trapping in all its effective forms is clearly explained, as well as all the most eligible modes of freeing preserves from the depredations both of birds, quadrupeds, and bipedal poachers.

TECHNICAL TERMS.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A brace of black game. | A brace of pheasants. |
| A leash of black game. | A leash of pheasants. |
| A pack of black game. | A ni (or nid) or brood of pheasants. |
| To raise a black cock or pack. | To push or spring a pheasant. |
| A brace of grouse. | A couple of woodcocks. |
| A leash of grouse. | A couple and a half of woodcocks. |
| A brood or pack of grouse. | A flight of woodcocks. |
| To raise grouse. | A fall of woodcocks. |
| A brace and a half of partridges. | To flush a woodcock. |
| A brace of partridges. | A couple of snipes. |
| A covey of partridges. | A couple and a half of snipes. |
| To spring partridges. | A wisp of snipes. |
| A brace of quail. | To spring a snipe. |
| A brace and a half of quail. | A walk of snipes. |
| A bevey of quail. | A herd of swans, and of curlews. |
| To raise quails. | |

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A gaggle or flock of geese. | A covert of coots. |
| A team of wild ducks. | A sege of herons and bitterns. |
| A badelynge of ducks. | A spring of teals. |
| A sord or sute of mallards. | A couple of pointers or setters. |
| A dopping of sheldrakes. | A leash of pointers or setters. |
| A wing of plover. | A couple of spaniels. |
| A congregation of plovers. | A couple and a half of spaniels. |
| A building of rooks. | A brace of hares. |
| A murmuration of starlings. | A leash of hares. |
| A trip of dottrell. | To start or move a hare. |

A pair—A couple—A brace.—A pair is two united by nature (*par*); a couple by an occasional chain (*copula*); and a brace, by a noose or tie. A pair of swans. A couple of hounds. A brace of partridges—a pair is a male and female; a couple, two accidental companions; a brace, tied together by the sportsman. He keeps a pair of pheasants in the hen roost. We saw a couple of pheasants feeding on the bank. You shot a brace of partridges.

Barren Pairs.—When the nest of a partridge happens to be destroyed late in the season, the old birds remain together, and are called a *barren pair*. However, it sometimes happens, that what are called a barren pair prove to be both cocks—the following appears to be the reason:—When, after pairing time, two cock birds happen to be left in the same district, after the animosity which accompanies genial desire has subsided, the two male birds associate and remain together, if undisturbed, until the following spring.—But barren pairs, whether male and female or otherwise, never lie well, or in other words, are much more difficult to approach than a covey. It sometimes happens that four or five male birds associate, in which case they are called *Old Bachelors*.

OF OIL,

AND THE BEST MODE OF CLARIFYING IT.

All vegetable oils possess a harder quality, and are more apt to become cloggy, than animal oils; and are, consequently, not well calculated for the locks and the iron work of the fowling-piece. Neat's foot oil, and the oil from sheep's feet, gene-

rally contain a considerable quantity of feculent matter; which may be separated by the following simple process:—drop a few pieces of lead into the bottle, and hang it in the sun for a week or ten days, when the residuum will sink to the bottom, leaving the oil remarkably pure, and admirably adapted for the purpose just mentioned. If it happens in the winter, when the sun is not sufficiently powerful, hang the bottle near the fire, to keep the oil perfectly fluid, otherwise, the residuum cannot sink. Goose grease, or the fat of fowls in general, will answer the purpose fully as well, if clarified in the manner above described. The wood-work of the gun should be rubbed with linseed oil, which will in a short time become an excellent coat of varnish.

FORM OF A SHOOTER'S JOURNAL

| Where killed. | When. | Black Game. | Grouse. | Partridge. | Pheasant. | Woodcock. | Snipe. | Ducks or Wild Fowl. | Hare. | Rabbit. | Total each Day. | Shots missed. | Remarks on the Weather, Scent, &c. |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------|------------------------|-------|---------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | Monday. . . | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Tuesday. . . | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Wednesday | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Thursday. . | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Friday. . . . | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Saturday . . | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Total each Week | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| GENERAL OBSERVATIONS. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

THE GAME LAWS.

By the Game Bill of the Grey administration, 1 & 2 Wm. IV., the previous qualification for killing game was expunged, and the mere purchase of a certificate (which costs 3*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*) is sufficient for the purpose ; but, although it authorises a person to kill game, it does not enable him to commit a trespass on the grounds or land of another.

The 30th section, after reciting that, after the commencement of this act, game will become an article which may be legally bought and sold, and that it is therefore just and reasonable that summary means be provided for protecting it from trespassers, enacts, that any person committing trespasses, by entering or being in the day-time upon any land, in search or pursuit of game, woodcocks, &c., shall forfeit any sum not exceeding 2*l.*, with costs of conviction : and that if any persons, to the number of five or more together, commit any trespass, by entering in the day-time upon any land in search of game, &c., each of them shall forfeit not less than 5*l.*, with costs of conviction ; the leave of the occupier of the land shall not be a sufficient defence in any case where the landlord, lessor, or other persons, shall have the right of killing game upon such land by virtue of any reservation or otherwise ; but that such landlord, &c., shall, for the purpose of prosecuting for each of such two offences. be deemed to be the legal occupier of the land ; and that the lord or steward of the crown of any manor, lordship, or royalty, shall be deemed to

be the legal occupier of the land of the wastes or commons within such manor, lordship, &c.

Section 31 enacts, that if any person be found on any land, crown forest, &c., in pursuit of game, he may be ordered to quit such land by a gamekeeper or servant, who may also demand his name and place of abode; and if he refuse to give them, or resort to any evasion, he may be taken into custody, and conveyed as soon as conveniently may be before a magistrate; and the offender (whether so apprehended or not) shall forfeit any sum not exceeding 5*l.*, with costs of conviction. But no person so apprehended shall, on any pretence whatever, be detained for a longer period than twelve hours from the time of his apprehension until brought before a magistrate; and if he cannot, owing to the absence or distant residence of a magistrate, or on account of any other reasonable cause, be brought before a magistrate within such twelve hours, then he shall be discharged, but may nevertheless be proceeded against for the offence by summons or warrant.

Section 32 enacts, that if any persons, to the number of five or more, shall be found upon any land, &c., in search of game, any of them by violence or intimidation preventing, or endeavouring to prevent, any authorised person from approaching them for the purpose of requiring them to quit the land, &c., or to tell their or his name and place of abode, every person so offending shall forfeit, for every offence, any sum not exceeding five pounds, with costs of conviction; which penalty shall be in addition and independent of any other penalty to which any such person shall be liable under this act.

Section 95 enacts, that the aforesaid provisions shall not extend to persons found on any land hunting or coursing, and being in fresh pursuit of any deer, hare, or fox, already started upon any other

land ; nor to any person *bonâ fide* claiming and exercising any right of free warren or free chase, nor to any lawfully-appointed gamekeeper within the limits of any manor, &c.

Section 96 enacts, that when any person shall be found, by night or day, upon any land, &c., in pursuit of game, and having in his possession any game which shall appear to have been recently killed, any person, having a right of killing game upon such a land, or the occupier of the land, or the gamekeeper or servant of either of them, may demand from the person so found the game which may be in his possession ; and in case he shall not immediately deliver up the same, may seize and take it from him.

Section 24 enacts, that if any person, not having the right of killing game, nor having permission from any person having the right, wilfully take out of the nest or destroy the eggs of any bird of game, or of any swan, wild duck, widgeon, or teal, or knowingly have in his possession any eggs so taken, he shall forfeit for every egg any sum not exceeding five shillings, with costs of conviction.

The 46th section provides, that this enactment shall not preclude actions for trespass ; but that, where any proceedings have been instituted under this act in regard to any trespass, no action at law shall be maintainable for the same trespass.

Section 48.—This enactment does not extend to Scotland or Ireland.

DUTY ON DOGS.

For every greyhound, kept by any person, whether his property or not, 1*l*. For every hound, pointer, setting dog, spaniel, lurcher, or terrier, the annual sum of 14*s*. For every dog not being such as aforesaid, kept by any person, whether the same be kept for his own use, or the use of any other person, the annual sum of 8*s*.

But this duty is not to extend to dogs not six months old, the proof of which to lie on the owner.

Persons compounding for their hounds to be charged 36*l*.

EASTERN FIELD SPORTS.

THE reader must have observed, that I have throughout this little work, spoken much in favor of the patent wire cartridge; it is, indeed, above all praise. But while it may be recommended as highly advantageous for almost every description of sport in the British Isles, those who are so fortunate as to have opportunity of enjoying the still more animating and delightful, though dangerous, field diversions of India, amid the sombre and yet magnificent scenery of that vast empire, will hail with satisfaction an invention that combines two most important desiderata. In the short description I am about to lay before them the need of a missile capable of reaching and bringing to the ground unusually large and strong birds, and at the same time forming an invincible defence (in close quarters)

against the formidable tiger, or other ferocious animals, occasionally met with, and always to be dreaded, cannot fail to be clearly perceived; and I am gratified to think, that while I am ministering to the pleasure and safety of those who honour my excogitations with perusal, I am at the same time promoting the success (I mean in a pecuniary point of view) of the patentees who have, it seems, expended very serious sums of money, and spent much time, in bringing to its present perfection, this highly interesting invention.

Further, I wish to call the attention of the sportsman in India, and in our colonies generally, to the peculiar properties of the cartridge. For the first ten or fifteen yards it combines the qualities of the loose charge and the bullet; that is to say, while one portion of the charge is gradually separating into single pellets, the other portion continues to adhere in the form of a bullet or mass of lead, propelled with a force tenfold that of the bullet from a rifle, and consequently far more effective. This heap of pellets, at the distance of twenty yards, becomes entirely separated, and then acts only as a very hard hitting loose charge. So that if, in the pursuit of game the sportsman should suddenly come upon or in contact with any ferocious animal, there can be no doubt that the charge, if well directed (at his chest, for instance, or behind the fore leg), if it did not actually kill, would so disable him, as to prevent the impending danger.

By the term prefixed to this article, I do not mean to include the pursuit of the jackal or the fox by hounds, or that of the wild hog by the horse and the spear; but, inasmuch as the gun, from the very nature of Indian field sports, as well as for security against wild beasts, is in constant requisition, and the patent wire cartridge is so much superior to the loose charge of shot, on the ball, and is so admirably calculated for the purpose, a few brief ob-

servations on the subject may not be deemed out of place; and, I am willing to hope, will not prove uninteresting.

An invincible passion for field sports, inherited from their Saxon and Norman progenitors, characterises the natives of this island, and in whatever part of the world, profession, enterprise, or commercial pursuits may happen to place them, the intuitive and ardent feeling becomes manifest—in the pursuit of the wood grouse, the bear and the wolf in the north of Europe, the wild turkey and the deer of America, the lion and the leopard of Africa, the tiger of Bengal and the Indian continent. However, as our almost boundless empire in the East has necessarily drawn to that part of the globe myriads of our countrymen, if the field sports of those burning regions present a different character, the English in their ardour for the chase have accommodated themselves to the nature of the country and the objects of pursuit.

As far as relates to the winged game of the East Indies, the glittering peacock is the most conspicuous, if not the noblest variety; but this beautiful bird, aware of the value set on his head, seeks the security of the jungle during the day, and when (morning and evening) he comes out to feed, he rarely strays far from his arboreal asylum, is on the watch, and the sportsman can seldom get within distance. The peacock requires a hard blow in order to bring him down, and if he be wounded and still retains the use of his legs, he makes directly for the cover, where the lurking tiger renders pursuit too dangerous to be put in practice.

Jungle fowl, and the most beautiful varieties of the pheasant, are also to be met with in many parts of the Asiatic continent; and to the pursuit of any and all of these, observations similar to the preceding would apply. The sportsmen of India, convinced by the incontestible evidence of experience of

the inefficacy of the loose charge of shot against these noble birds, prefer seeking the minor winged game found in the pestilential marshes, and thus risk their lives from consequent disease. Therefore, the moment the patent wire cartridge is known in India, its use will become general.

Captain Skinner, when speaking of that noble bird the jungle fowl, observes—"Whenever they were disturbed by our attempts upon them, the cock flew to the highest branch of some tree, beyond our reach, and sounded the alarm with all his might, while his dames ran into holes and corners to escape our attacks. They are so cunning that we found it impossible to get within shot of them with all the caution we could use. While intent upon capturing at least one, as we were creeping after them upon our breasts, lying occasionally like riflemen, under cover of the unevenness of the ground to catch them *en passant*, we came very suddenly upon an ambuscade, that very soon put an end to our sport.

"We were about midway up the face of a hill that was thickly covered by trees, and much clogged by shrubs and creepers, that wound in all directions. On reaching the foot of the enemy's position, still advancing upon our breasts, and bending a keen eye upon the birds strutting before us, up rose, with a growl that denoted an offended spirit (for we had literally touched his tail), a large black bear; he turned round and looked us full in the face, with the most undisguised astonishment. It was the most unsought, as well as the most unpromising, introduction I had ever met with. There was no time for parley; and getting upon our legs, we at once stood upon the defensive. This sudden metamorphosis completed his surprise, and yelling louder than before, he set off as fast as he could shuffle from the extraordinary animals that had so unaccountably sprung up before him. We determined

that discretion was the better part of valor, and began to retrace our steps, leaving the jungle fowl to benefit by the interruption." Had bruin attacked the party, their loose shotguns would have made little impression upon his thick and well-protected hide; while a patent wire cartridge would have operated as a ball, or rather as a tearing slug, at so short a distance.

That princely bird, the bustard, breeds in various parts of Hindostan, particularly on the plains of Bundelkhand. This bird seems to inhabit chiefly the extensive tracks of both cultivated and heath lands, and is frequently met with in the vicinity of Lohargong. "I have had the good luck to partake of the luxury which the dainty flesh of this species furnishes, only thrice since I have wandered over these regions; the first was shot flying by a brother sportsman with a ball, and two others were taken in a snare by a naked Sheekaree. The former was rather a comical sort of a gent.; and though not a novice in the diversion of shooting, it seems that he had not the remotest idea of the bustard species; consequently, when he first visited these dominions, he stamped down this noble bird as *rara avis in terris*, and kept one of these creatures for several days to satisfy his curiosity. At length, after profound meditation, he pronounced it to be some *overgrown hill owl, and had it worried by dogs!* The bustard that he subsequently shot was really so ponderous, that we were obliged to place the burden on the shoulders of a strong man."

"I have met with many experienced sportsmen, who have been upwards of twenty years in India, and although constantly out, have never killed a bustard; and the usual answer, on asking the reason why not, is invariably 'Oh, there's no getting near them!' It is true, a man may walk after them for years, and find it all labour in vain; and, unless he adopt some finesse, will never achieve this ex-

plait, which by many is reckoned the *ne plus ultra* of sporting in the East.

“The best way to get near a bustard is on horseback, and the sportsman must never think of dismounting until he is certain the bird is within his power, when he may either leap off, or if his nag be steady, fire from his back. In nearing a bustard, never think of going straight up to him, but make a circle, looking outward, affecting not to see him: in this way, provided he has not been much disturbed during the day, you may almost make sure of getting a shot; but you must keep moving, for the moment you stop or hesitate the game is up, and when once on the wing it is but rarely you can a second time get so near them, except by riding, in which way I have frequently succeeded; and after following a bird for upwards of twenty miles, have often had my perseverance crowned with success.

“Indeed in this, as in most other sports, perseverance will generally ensure success, and provided you are mounted upon an active well-managed nag, and find yourself in front of the bird, when on the wing, you may make sure of his passing over your head; and as he scarcely ever flies more than 25 or 30 yards from the ground, you ought to be certain of killing. But, recollect you are likely to be deceived by their flight until you have had some experience, as from their great size they are supposed to be slow; but I can assure you this is not the case, for I have seen many a one clean missed by good shots.”

Leopard Hunting.—“On the 11th of February, my friend Dr. R—— and myself had just returned from Baoutah, sixteen miles distant, where we had been partridge shooting, when we received information from some of the inhabitants of Sanson (a village close to this) that a leopard had taken up his quarters amongst them, and had wounded four or

five men. On arriving at the place, about half a mile from my house, a small sugar cane plantation, about fifty or sixty yards square, was pointed out as the spot where the leopard then was. The plant was upwards of five feet high, and very thick, so that it was impossible for me, on entering it, to see more than a foot before me. I therefore directed two or three Sheekarees, who were present, to fire into it, and made others pelt it with clods of earth, &c., whilst I took up my station at one corner, that I might have the command of two sides of the plantation, R—— standing at a short distance with his spear, prudently declining any attack on his part. We continued the pelting and firing (sometimes with ball) for I think full half an hour, but nothing moved; and as we had not been able to get a sight of any of the men said to have been wounded, began to think it a hoax, when four of the salt agency Sepoys came up. I told them that I thought the whole account was false, and that I did not believe any leopard had been near the place. The old Jemadar, a very thin, spare man, dressed in an old red jacket, large enough for two of his size, and a pair of very tight, very short pantaloons, which displayed most beautifully his drum stick legs, that appeared to vie with each other in point of crookedness, believing what I said, immediately drew his sword, and making himself up for mischief, gave the words, “fix bayonets—port arms—march;” and falling in on the right of his men, dashed into the plantation in a style that would have excited the risible faculties of the most grave. On they went, and had passed through three parts of the sugar cane, when, to my great astonishment, they called out—“Hie! Sahib! hie!” I immediately followed them, accompanied by two of my servants, with spears, one on each side of me, and the Sepoys having fallen back a little, we advanced in a tolerable line. In a few seconds, the Sepoy on

my left fired; up sprung the animal, and charged him most furiously: he brought down his bayonet, but it was useless, for in a moment it was unfixed, and he received a few scratches on his right thigh. In another second or two the brute had passed me, brushing my left leg, and sprung upon the back of a man that was running away. I now saw that it was a leopard; some time, however, elapsed before I could get a shot at him. A number of natives had followed me into the plantation, who, the moment the animal was roused, knew not in their fright which way to run, so that they were constantly, one or other of them, overtaken or met by him, and I had repeated views of him mounted on the back or shoulders of some poor fellow. I desired my servants to stand quietly by me, which they did; and after charging in various directions, without once leaving the sugar cane, we heard him coming down upon us. I fully expected to get a shot now, but no! Again he passed close to me without my being able to see him; he did not, however, get far before I caught him making a spring at one of the natives, and although the man was in a direct line with him, I did not hesitate to risk a shot, seeing him commit so much punishment. I fortunately hit him in the back, which appeared to sicken him a little, for he ran out of the plantation on the side where R—— was, as if looking for some place to make his escape; but perceiving so many people, slunk in again, and became quiet. I now went out, and reloading the barrel I had discharged, walked along that side of the sugar cane where he had stopped, and shortly observed him on the edge of it, about ten or twelve yards from me, growling and creeping along with his belly almost touching the ground, as if about to make a spring on a Sepoy a short distance from him. A second ball, which I gave him in the head, finished him. On examination we found that the shot which the

Sepoy fired had grazed one fore leg. The skin, which is extremely handsome, measures six feet six inches from the nose to the tip of the tail. The activity he displayed realized, if not surpassed, all I had heard. More than once did he spring from the back of one man to that of another, without deigning to touch the ground. Seven men and one boy accompanied us home, all wounded more or less; one man very severely, he was one of those who were hurt before we went out; being rather curious, he had entered the plantation with a view of seeing what kind of a beast it was, when the animal pounced upon him, and fixing one of his paws on his face, and the other on the back of his neck, slipped gradually down, lacerating his face, breast, and back, most dreadfully; his under lip was completely divided to the tip of the chin, so that it hung over in two flaps; his arm also was gnawed from the shoulder to the elbow."

Hence it may be clearly perceived that in all kinds of Indian field sports the patent wire cartridge would be an invaluable acquisition. In these burning regions, the shooter, in pursuing the noblest winged game in the world, is always liable to be surprised by some of those formidably-ferocious animals (particularly of the cat kind, such as the tiger, the panther, the leopard, &c.), and having these cartridges in his double gun, would be prepared for his selected game at long distances, and with a brace of terrific slugs at close quarters with any of those mercilessly-savage creatures which have hitherto rendered every variety of the chase so highly dangerous in this part of the world. Even when tiger hunting parties go out expressly for the purpose, the cartridge, I am inclined to think, would be found an admirable substitute for the ball, particularly as these extraordinary projectiles can be made to order, and thus be composed of the size of shot deemed the most eligible.

A gentleman (a friend of the writer) found himself upon one occasion (in Ceylon) under the necessity of passing the night in a jungle through which his road happened to run. An open space was selected for the purpose, and his attendants (eight in number) formed a circle of fire, in the interior of which the party took up their quarters for the night. The fearful concert of an Indian forest, when night spreads her dusky mantle over the earth, need not be described in this place; but wild beasts repeatedly approached to within twenty or thirty yards of the fire, and could be clearly perceived, particularly by their glaring eyes; they were repeatedly fired at with ball, and missed, or at least no traces of wounds or death were observable the next morning: at such a distance the operation of the cartridge would have been like a number of small balls, driven with sufficient force to perforate the skull of a tiger.

The sportsman and lion hunter in the neighbourhood of the Cape of Good Hope, would find the cartridge equally eligible.

FIELD SPORTS OF AMERICA.

THE character of the rural sports of this vast section of the globe, like the country itself, differs from that of every other quarter of the world:—here the wild turkey may be regarded as a substitute for the bustard of the East Indies; the pheasant, the partridge, and the grouse, are also to be met with in the western hemisphere, differing, however, in appearance from those of Asia or Europe. Of wild deer, there are several varieties; the bear, the wolf, the racoon, &c., are also pursued with the gun. The sportsman who seeks the wild turkey in

the boundless forests or swamps of America employs the rifle, because these large birds (like all other large birds) are remarkably shy, and cannot be reached with the loose charge of shot. The wild turkey of America is as large as the domestic turkey of this country; in fact it exactly resembles the darker colored bird so frequently seen here: the varieties of color observable amongst these birds in this country have arisen from domestication. The wild turkey runs with great speed, and seems to prefer running to rising on the wing. The young birds follow the mother as soon as they are hatched, in the same manner as those of the domestic bird. I once came suddenly on a brood of wild turkeys; the female sounded the alarm, and immediately disappeared amongst the brushwood; the chicks, which were not larger than partridges, flew into the trees. The reader will easily perceive the immeasurable advantage the sportsman in America would derive from the use of the patent wire cartridge. The trees are so remarkably lofty that a loose charge will not reach their tops, and the game, aware of the fact, fly thither and thus baffle pursuit.

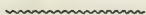
In Labrador, game is found not only in greater abundance, but in much greater variety, consisting of moose deer, red deer, rein deer, bears, buffaloes, wolves, foxes, beavers, otters, martins, squirrels, ermines, wild cats, hares, &c., while the feathered game there is in still greater variety as well as much greater abundance: there are geese and ducks of all the various kinds, also wild fowl of all sorts in profusion, with partridges, grouse, bustards, &c.

The pursuit of the deer is perhaps the most interesting amusement to be met with in these snowy regions. Cartwright observes:—"At nine o'clock (in the morning) we discovered some deer feeding by the side of a bleak hill; we approached as near to them as the situation would permit, and there lay

watching in expectation that they would soon shift their ground; but not finding them disposed to move, and the frost increasing, we attempted to gain their right; but they discerned us, and galloped away till they came upon the ice in the river, where they lay down about three hundred yards from the shore. There I flattered myself that the dogs would have been a match for one of them, and I divided the people in order to surround the herd; but they were too cunning for us. On their rising, the dog was slipped, when he soon ran in and separated them, but they joined again presently; and there being about six inches of light snow upon the ice, with a thin shell frozen on the top, the dog struck so deep in, and cut his legs so much, that he was obliged to desist from the pursuit. Never did I see creatures more sensible of the advantage they had, or make better use of it. At first starting, they ran up wind, and, keeping as close together as possible, they kicked up such a shower of frozen snow, that I could scarcely discern the dog, when he was near them; and wondered at his resolution in continuing the chase. When they came near the shore, they wheeled gently round, well knowing that they could not run there nearly so well as on the ice, and might be in danger of an ambuscade. As the dog abated of his speed, they diminished their's; and, when he gave up the pursuit, they ran no longer, but turned about and looked at him."

The chase of the white bear appears to be a dangerous pursuit, not only on account of having frequently to follow the animal upon the ice, but from the ferocity with which it turns upon the hunters. Captain Scott observed a white she bear, with two cubs, come upon the point where his tent was pitched, and all three shortly afterwards entered his skiff to search for fish, the blood of which they most probably winded. The old bear then proceeded on for Muddy Bay, but the cubs loitered

behind. Captain Scott contrived to place himself between the cubs and their dam, and fired at one of the former: the old bear immediately turned about, and made at him with the utmost fury; but on his running away, and the cubs joining her unhurt, she appeared contented, and pursued her intended rout. Whenever a man meets with a white bear and cubs, he ought either to kill the dam or let them all alone; otherwise his own life will be in great danger.



FIELD SPORTS IN THE NORTH OF EUROPE.

(From Mr. Lloyd.)

THE savage grandeur of the northern forests, their vastness, and their solitude, can only be duly appreciated by those who, like myself, have wandered in their wilds. Mountain, rock, and glen, are all deeply covered with the melancholy-looking pine, which may be seen waving in endless succession as far as the sight can reach. "In vain," says a contemporary writer, "does the eye, darting between their tall, straight forms, rising in stately dignity, and in their green, unchanging beauty, endeavour to penetrate the dark extent, and to catch some traces of civilization; and equally in vain does the sun attempt with his rays to pierce through their waving tops and illumine the gloom below." Among this luxuriant foliage, crags of the most picturesque description often present themselves to the view; whilst the surface of the ground is strewn in every direction with large and broken fragments of rock. Many of these immense masses have doubtlessly been detached from the neighbouring crags; but

others again are lying loose and disjointed, in such situations that they could only have found their way there owing to some extraordinary convulsion of nature. Though the wild forest-scene is at all times sufficiently monotonous, the landscape is often relieved by some of the numerous tarns and lakes, often beautifully studded with islands, that cover the face of the country; whilst streams, even if unseen, may at times be heard gurgling through some deep and lonely dell.

At Melung I obtained the plan of the skull that was to take place on the following day. This was an area in the form of a half-circle, the diameter of which might be about two or three hundred paces, marked by a pathway cut through the forest. This pathway was called the *shooting-line*; and, for some little distance in advance of it, the underwood, where it happened to be thick, was cleared away, so that the view of the shooter might not be obstructed. On this line, the people, after driving the country before them, were to converge from all points; and within this the skull of course was to terminate.

As the eastern side of the country intended to be embraced by the skull was flanked by rivers, lakes, &c., obstacles which, unless hard pressed, wild beasts will seldom attempt to pass, it was considered necessary to station comparatively few men in that direction. For this reason, there was a large portion left to form the remainder of the cordon; and in consequence, when first placed in position, it was calculated that the people would not have to be at more than fifty paces from each other.

Dogs are never allowed in skulls; were they to be at large, they would irritate and annoy the beast to that degree, that he would probably break through all obstacles. I brought my own dogs with me on this occasion merely that they might be in readiness in the event of a wounded bear escaping through

the cordon, and not with any intention of previously slipping them from their couplings.

About six in the evening we came to a *Sätterwall*, when, feeling a little fatigued, we seated ourselves on the grass immediately in front of a little tenement, and commenced taking some refreshment. Here we were much annoyed by the mosquitoes, which, though not a tenth part so numerous as I have seen them in Lapland, were still very troublesome. As I had taken the precaution, however, of providing myself with a small veil, which I often wore as a protection against these insects when travelling in that country, I suffered much less than my companions. The latter were not so much inconvenienced as might have been expected; for their hair, which was long and flowing, as is usual with the peasantry in the north of Sweden, greatly protected their ears and necks from the attacks of these blood-suckers.

Whilst we were thus occupied, the people were gradually, though slowly, advancing towards us, though we could not see them in consequence of the closeness of the cover. At length, when they had approached to within a very short distance of the fence which surrounds the few enclosures in the vicinity of the building where we were resting ourselves, and which might be at about one hundred and fifty paces distance, they suddenly set up a most tremendous shout. At first I was so stupid as not altogether to understand the meaning of this; but my boy, springing on to his feet, instantly cried out, "The bear! the bear!" On hearing this exclamation, I quickly, as it may be supposed, followed his example; and, whilst in the act of rising, I also caught a view of the fellow, just as he had cleared the fence, and as he was dashing along a little hollow filled with brushwood, which was within side of and ran parallel to it; my view of him, however, was so transitory, that he was out of my sight before

I had time to put my gun to my shoulder, and much less to fire. My boy, who happened to stand on a more commanding position than myself, subsequently saw him, after he had proceeded some two hundred paces along the hollow, emerge from it; when heading back over the fence by which he had entered the enclosures, he once more betook himself to the forest; this, most unfortunately, was at the luckless gap of which I have just spoken, where, there being no one to oppose his progress, he of course succeeded in making good his escape.

I was now at a loss to know how to act, for I did not feel justified in slipping the dogs until I had ascertained whether the people, by throwing back their line, would endeavour to retrieve the bear. On their coming up, however, and declining to do so, I lost no time in loosing the dogs from their couplings, when they went off on the track of the latter at such a pace, that in a very few minutes their challenges were only to be heard in the distance.

Taking one of the guns that I had with me, and leaving the other, together with our knapsack, at the Sätterwall, I soon made after the dogs as fast as I was able; but the chase proved a useless one; for the bear made through the forest in so straight a line, that either from the want of inclination or ability, they were unable to come up with him: to my mortification, therefore, after something more than half an hour's run, they gave up the pursuit and came to heel. The weather was very hot, and my exertions in the chase were, as may be imagined, not a little fatiguing.

As all hopes of killing this bear were now at an end, we coupled up the dogs and retraced our steps to the Sätterwall. Here we again fell in with the people, who had halted, as well for the purpose of filling up the gap through which the bear had made his escape (which by this time they had succeeded in effecting), as of taking some refreshments.

At about eleven in the evening, the line again slowly advanced, when with my people I kept a little ahead of it, in the hopes another bear might be driven towards us. This good fortune, however, did not attend us, though we fell in with the track of a very large one, that had evidently been on foot only a few hours before.

At this season of the year, the sun sunk so little below the horizon, and the twilight was so strong, that excepting in the very thickest brakes of the forest, I think I could without much difficulty have killed a bird on the wing at midnight.

Between twelve and one on Tuesday morning the people again halted, for we heard in the distance the order to that effect conveyed along the line from one man to the other. This halt, we then supposed, would be of but short duration, as, according to the original plan, it was intended that the skall should proceed to its final destination without making more than such stoppages as were indispensable. As the night was rather cold, however, for there came on a pretty strong wind from the northward, and as we felt chilled after the severe exercise we had taken when in chase of the bear, we now lighted a blazing fire.

Hitherto, during the battue, I had only heard a single shot, but in a minute or less after we had reached the skall-plats, and before we had properly taken up our several positions, a discharge or two at a distant part of the line announced that something was on foot; almost at the same instant a bear dashed at full gallop through a thick brake parallel to, and at only some twenty paces from, where I stood. But at this time, owing to my attention being distracted by something that was going on, I had omitted to cock my gun; and, in consequence, I had no time to fire before the animal had again disappeared.

Though the firing at different points was at inter-

vals heavy, from which it was pretty evident the game we had enclosed was endeavouring to find an outlet to escape, nothing made its appearance near to where I stood.

Finding this to be the case, and thinking it was probably in consequence of there being so little underwood thereabouts—for bears as well as other wild beasts will generally hold to the thickest cover—I now moved some paces to my left, and placed myself opposite to a thick brake, in the centre of which was a small opening of a few feet in extent. In this new position I had not remained more than a minute or two, when the heavy firing to my left, evidently rapidly advancing towards me, together with the tremendous shouts of the people, gave me plainly to understand something was coming. In this I was not deceived; for, in a few seconds, a large and noble-looking bear, his head rather erect, and with the fire and spirit of a war-horse in his appearance, dashed at full speed into the small opening of which I have just spoken. But his stay there was momentary; for, seeing probably that the people were too thick on the ground to give him a chance of escape, he wheeled about, and in another instant he was lost in the thicket. In the interim, however, I had time, though without taking any deliberate aim, to discharge both my barrels, when one or two of my balls, as it was very evident from the growl he gave, took the desired effect; but he did not fall at the instant, though, after he had proceeded a few paces, and in that while it was said no other person fired at him, he sunk to rise no more.

I now commenced re-loading, but I had only got a ball into one of my barrels, when another bear dashed into, and was almost as instantaneously out of, my little opening; so that, by the time I had taken up my gun from the ground and placed it to my shoulder, he was all but out of sight. I fired, however, at random; but, as he was in the thicket

and went off, I had no means of ascertaining whether my bullet took effect, or the contrary.

After a while, and when the firing had ceased along the whole line, that part of the cordon where I was stationed had orders to move forward. At first we had to force our way through an almost impenetrably thick brake, which formed, as it were, a belt within the skull-plats. Subsequently we came to some enclosures, deeply intersected with ravines, immediately overhanging the Wan Lake, from which we might then be at about two hundred and fifty paces distance. We now heard tremendous shouting, and presently afterwards we saw a bear, at some forty or fifty paces from the land, swimming for the opposite side of the lake. Its escape, however, was next to impossible, as to guard against a circumstance of this kind happening, several boats had been previously stationed on the water; these went in immediate pursuit, when a shot or two through the head presently put the beast *hors de combat*; and subsequently we observed its carcass towed to the land.

In the enclosures were still some small brakes, and these, it may be supposed, we took care to beat very closely, as nothing was more likely than that a wounded bear might have crept into them for shelter. But we did not meet with any of these animals; though, from a close thicket, a lynx, a fine long-legged fellow, nearly as red, and twice as large, as a fox, went off at an awkward gallop. This animal, or at least one of its species, I had previously seen when we were firing at the bears; but at that time I did not care to waste my powder and shot, when so much better game was on foot. When he first started, he was within about fifteen paces of me, and then I could probably have killed him; but at that time some of the people were in the line of my fire, and I was therefore obliged to let him go off unmolested. When, however, he was at some sixty

or seventy paces distance, I sent the contents of both my barrels after him, though, as far as I could judge, without any effect ; but his escape was next to impossible, for the people at this time were eight or ten feet deep, so, after running the gauntlet of twenty shots at least, he was at length slaughtered.

Thirty or forty hares were still within the cordon, perfectly bewildered with the noise and uproar that was going forward. When, therefore, we had beaten the few remaining brakes, and ascertained, beyond a doubt, that neither bear or other wild beast was remaining, a war of extermination was carried on amongst them. Some of these poor animals were knocked on the head as they were running among the legs of the people ; whilst others, and by far the greater part, were shot ; this indeed was altogether contrary to orders, for, in skulls, no one is permitted to fire, except at bears or other wild beasts. Such shooting I never before witnessed, for, in more than one instance, I saw twelve or fourteen shots fired in succession at the same hare, when within only a few paces of the muzzles of the guns, without its being touched ; and, after all, I almost suspect more of them died from fright, than in consequence of any actual injury they received.

In attacking a bear, a man ought always to keep the higher ground ; for should he be below the animal when he fires, and his ball not take effect in a vital part, it is very probable the beast will dash towards him at the top of his speed. If, on the contrary, he be above him, he is the better enabled to get out of the way in the event of an attack. It is said, besides, that when the bear sees his opponent has the vantage ground, he seldom makes any hostile attempt.

It is asserted that, if a man meet a lion, and has the presence of mind to look him full in the face, the animal becomes cowed, and usually takes himself off. I do not know whether this will hold good

with the bear; few people, I apprehend, having tried the experiment. Jan Finne says that he can tell by the eye of that animal if he be savage, or the contrary; and that, should the beast once look steadily at him, he knows he is not afraid, and he therefore keeps a respectable distance.

If a man purposes attacking a bear at close quarters, a double gun is decidedly the best; if it be in the winter season, a detonator is very preferable. Owing to having flint locks, both my barrels, as I have shown, missed fire, one on an occasion, which might have been attended with most serious consequences: a large ball is very desirable. The best points to hit a bear, or any other animal, are in the forehead, in the breast, under the ear, or at the back of the shoulder; bullets placed in other parts of the body of an old bear usually have little immediate effect. If the snow be deep, and the bear is crossing a man, he should always aim very low; he must often, indeed, fire into the snow, if he expects to hit the heart of the beast.

The *chasse* of the bear on skidor* is certainly attended with some degree of danger; for in the event of the animal coming end on at a man in close cover, it is not easy on such unwieldy machines to get out of the way. The bear, it is true, generally runs at the sight of a person; but if he be wounded, he frequently turns, and, as has been seen, inflicts a terrible vengeance upon his assailants. I have heard of several men having been killed; and many is the poor fellow that I have met with in different parts of Scandinavia, who has been desperately injured by these beasts.

An old *chasseur*, near to Gefle, named Jaders-trom, assured me, that on one occasion, a party of seven Finns and Laps attacked a bear upon their skidor, but they did not succeed in destroying the

* Snow Skates.

beast until five of them were severely wounded; one of them was entirely scalped. Jaderstrom was not present himself on this occasion, but he saw the bear and the wounded men brought down from the forest.

Lieutenant Oldenburg mentioned several instances of people being wounded by bears, when pursuing them on snow skidor, that came within his own knowledge. A peasant, indeed, with whom he once lodged in the parish of Ora, in Jemptland, had been severely lacerated by one of these beasts.

This man, in company with several others, was in pursuit of the animal; but being the best runner of the party, he was the first to come up with him, when, discharging his rifle, he severely wounded the beast. The latter, in his turn, now rushed at the hunter, who, to save himself, wheeled about, and endeavoured to get out of the way; he presently, however, came to a little precipice, or steep declivity, down which he tumbled headlong, and in a moment afterwards the bear was on him. The ferocious beast now quickly tore out one of his eyes, and otherwise wounded him severely in the body; he bit him so badly, besides, in the hand, that he ever afterwards lost the use of three of his fingers. It is probable, indeed, he would have killed him, had not his companions at last come to the brow of the precipice, when, seeing the bear seated on the poor fellow's body, they immediately shot him through the head.

It is a commonly received opinion, that she-bears with cubs are the most dangerous; but even these do not always turn upon their assailants. On two occasions, I have been immediately near to, and wounded these animals when thus circumstanced, without their attempting to molest me; indeed, on the contrary, though both might readily have got hold of me, they left their cubs to their fate, and made their best efforts to escape. In one of these

instances, I was quite alone. She-bears with cubs will, it is true, often attack people; but generally speaking the old males are the most savage. These very generally turn upon their opponents, if they are wounded. They are, besides, the more to be dreaded from their enormous prowess.

I was myself in some danger from one of these fellows during the last winter. I shall detail the particulars, which may not be altogether uninteresting. This animal had, for some time previously, committed very great ravages among the cattle in the line of forest situated between the rivers Klar and Dal. During the preceding summer, indeed, he was said to have slaughtered twenty horses alone. He was the terror of the people in those parts.

Very fortunately, my man Elg, in his rambles through the forest at the setting-in of the winter, fell in with and ringed* the tracks of the beast; this

* The act of ascertaining where a bear has taken up his quarters in the winter time, is called ringing (*holma*); this is performed in the following manner:—When there is snow upon the ground, and the track of the animal (something resembling that of a human being) is discovered, a person follows it, until there is reason to believe that the bear may have taken up his abode in the vicinity. This is indicated by his proceeding very slowly, and in a crooked direction, or rather by his doubling in the same manner as a hare; for, as long as he goes in a straight line, he has no intention of lying down. The man now leaves the track, and commences making an extended ring or circle round the suspected part of the forest; should he succeed in completing this, without again meeting with the track, he, of course, knows to a certainty the bear is within. But if, on the contrary, he finds the animal has proceeded beyond his intended circle, he commences another ring, and thus he continues until he succeeds in accomplishing his object. The size of a ring depends altogether upon circumstances:—the season of the year, the state of the snow, the localities, &c., and, in consequence, though some may not exceed a mile or two in circumference, others again are six, or eight, or even more. To ring a bear properly requires great experience; and during the operation, if so it may be termed, the greatest silence and caution are necessary.

was no considerable distance from the northern extremity of Moss-sjon, of the lake of which I have more than once spoken ; but as, at that time, there was little snow in the forest, we left him undisturbed until the week before Christmas.

At the latter period, Elg and myself proceeded quite alone to the ring, which we searched in our usual silent and cautious manner ; but it was not until the evening of the second day, owing to the circle being of a great extent, that we met with the beast ; he however, was so much on his guard, that before we observed his lair, he bolted from it, and moved off. At this time, the fellow was not more than twenty paces distant ; but, owing to the trees being loaded with snow, I only got the merest glimpse possible of him. I nevertheless fired one of my barrels, which was charged with two balls, but the brake was so thick, that one, if not both of them, was interrupted by the intervening trees, and, in consequence, he escaped unhurt.

It would have been useless to give chase at this time, for there was too much snow on the ground to enable us to move with any expedition on foot, and too little to make use of skidor to advantage ; we therefore thought it best to let the beast go off without molestation. In the course of the two following days, however, we again succeeded in ringing him ; though this was not until he had proceeded some nine or ten miles further to the northward. Here, for a while, we allowed him to rest in quiet.

On the first of last January, we experienced a very heavy storm of snow, which continued to fall with little intermission for the succeeding three days : on its cessation, the ground was covered with that substance to the depth of from two to three feet. We now thought it time for action. We were now of course, provided with our skidor. As a fortnight had now elapsed since we had chased the

bear near to Moss-sjon, we thought it not improbable that his fears might, by this time, have in some degree subsided, and that we might be enabled to steal upon him whilst in his lair. Ordering Svensson and the other peasants, therefore, to remain without the ring, which was of an inconsiderable size, Elg and myself proceeded to look for the beast. That our movements might be effected with the greater silence on the occasion, we divested ourselves of our skidor and proceeded on foot.

The fatigue of getting along was now very great, for, in many places where the snow had drifted, we sank down nearly to our middles; the snow, besides, was hanging in such masses on the trees, that in the closer brakes we could hardly see more than a pace or two a-head. These would have been very trifling evils, had our manœuvre succeeded; but this, unfortunately, was not the case; for the bear, from some cause or other, had taken the alarm, and, long before we fell in with his lair, which occupied the whole surface of an immense ant-hill, he had bolted from it.

We now lost as little time as possible in rejoining the people, when, resuming our skidor, we instantly gave chase to the bear at our best pace. Though Elg and myself, when on foot, waded through the snow with so much labour and difficulty, the bear, from his enormous strength, and the wide spread of his feet, was enabled to make his way through it with apparent ease and facility. He did not, however, proceed at a gallop, excepting in particular places, to which, indeed, I suppose he was unequal; but he still managed to shuffle forward at no contemptible pace.

Had the fellow now held to an open line of country, I apprehend we should soon have run him down. But he had too much wit; and instead of thus exposing himself, he held to the most broken and precipitous ground, and to the thickest and most

tangled brakes in the forest; in consequence of this our course was naturally much impeded. This was bad enough, though still, if Hector had stood well to the animal, we might, in all probability, soon have come up with him: but after pursuing the beast for some little distance, the dog fell to heel, and thus was of no manner of service.

At last, after the chase had continued for almost three hours, and after we had been contending for some time with rising ground, we reached the summit of a considerable elevation. From hence we had the gratification of viewing the object of our pursuit, at about two hundred paces distance, as he was making his way across a newly-made svdegefall that lay on the slope of the hill below us. At this point, the snow had drifted very much, and was from three to four feet in depth; and, in consequence, the beast had literally to wade through it. We now dashed forward at our best pace, in the hopes of being able to intercept him before he should reach a thick brake on the opposite side of the svdegefall, towards which he was making; but, finding we could not accomplish this object in sufficient time, I halted when I had advanced to within about seventy paces of him, and levelled my rifle. In this instance, however, I played a most stupid part; for though I had ample time to fire, I delayed so long in attempting to take a certain aim, that the fellow slipped into the thicket, and disappeared without my pulling the trigger.

A delay of about three or four minutes now took place, in consequence of Elg having to return some little distance for the case of my rifle, which we had cast upon the ground when we first viewed the bear. In this interim, the peasants coming up with our knapsack, we indulged ourselves with a dram and a crust of bread, which was of no little service in recruiting our exhausted strength.

We then resumed the chase; but the animal

having the start of us, we for a long while saw nothing more of him.

At last, however, when we were in a rather open part of the forest, the object of our pursuit suddenly reared himself up from among a cluster of small pines, at some twenty-five paces in advance of us, and presented himself to our view. I now lost no time in slipping my double gun out of its case, when, as the fellow was slowly retreating among the bushes, I discharged both my barrels at him, almost at the same instant. On receiving my fire, the monster, with his jaws distended, partially swung himself round, when, growling furiously, he seemed as if he was on the point of dashing towards us. But the snow, thereabouts, was unusually deep, which, coupled with the state of exhaustion he must naturally have been in from the long run we had given him, caused him, probably, to alter his determination, and, instead of attacking us, he continued his retreat.

We lost no time in following up the bear, which was evidently much wounded, as we saw by his tracks being deeply marked with blood.

As it was the post of danger, I now led the way; Elg and the peasants following in my wake. Thus we proceeded for some distance, until we came to a very thick and tangled brake. Having a suspicion that the beast might have sheltered himself here, I made a little *detour* around his tracks, and succeeded in ringing him. I now lost not a moment in taking off my skidor; for in the event of an attack in close cover, these machines are highly dangerous, and advanced on foot into the thicket.

But I had not proceeded more than two or three paces, when a most terrific and lengthened growl announced that the bear was still in existence; and the next moment, and at only some ten or twelve paces distance, the quantity of snow which was hanging in the trees having prevented me from pre-

viously observing him, I viewed the fellow dashing forward at full gallop; fortunately, I was not altogether taken by surprise, for my double gun was not only out of its case, but both the locks were on the full cock. This was well, for the beast came at such a rattling pace, that, by the time I had discharged my second barrel, he was within less than a couple of paces of the muzzle of my gun. When I fired my last shot, he was not coming directly towards me; for, either my first had turned him; or, he did not observe us, owing to the closeness of the cover. By swerving my body on one side, however, for I had no time to move my feet, he luckily passed close alongside of me, without offering me any molestation. This, indeed, I apprehend, was out of his power; for, after receiving the contents of my last barrel, he slackened his pace, and by the time he had proceeded some few steps further, life was extinct, and he sank to rise no more.

On a second occasion, I was also in some danger from another capital male bear.

This animal was accidentally roused from his den, in the winter season, by some peasants who were felling timber in the forest, in the parish of Ny, in Elfdal; but after he had proceeded a short distance, he again laid himself down in the wilderness, for the purpose, doubtless, of reposing during the remainder of that inclement season; and he was ringed or encircled. This beast was supposed to be an old marauder, that, for several years, had committed great ravages among the cattle in that part of the country; this being the case, his death was devoutly to be wished for; and those who had ringed him, deemed it more advisable to get up a skull, than to attempt his destruction by other means. Such being the case, information was sent to Mr. Falk, who in consequence ordered out four or five hundred men.

I was present at this battue, which took place at

about five or six miles to the eastward of Lindebohl; but as no circumstance of particular interest occurred, I shall confine myself to stating, that soon after the cordon was formed around the beast, and after several shots had been fired at him, he became desperate, and dashing through the ranks, for that time made good his retreat.

After the bear had escaped from the skull, he made across the country, in nearly a direct line, about fourteen miles to the southward, and here he was once more encircled by the peasants.

The following morning was fine and slightly frosty. Soon after daylight, therefore, and after partaking of a plentiful repast, we set off for the ring, which was situated at an inconsiderable distance from our watch fire. On this, as on the former occasion, I was only accompanied by Elg and Svensson. I was armed with my double gun, and Elg with my rifle; but Svensson, who was the bearer of our kit of provisions, was provided with no other weapon than an axe.

As we had traversed fully the one half of the ring when we were there on the previous occasion, and in consequence there remained no very great extent of ground to go over, we fully anticipated soon getting the bear on foot. In this we were not disappointed, for we had not proceeded far, when coming to a thick and tangled brake, Jagare evinced by his eagerness and agitation, that the animal of which we were in search was not far distant. On seeing this, we pushed forward in the direction indicated by the dog; but when we reached the lair of the beast we found it deserted, he having the instant before, as we had reason to suppose, wisely taken himself off. We now slipped Jagare from his coupling, who making after the bear, was soon only to be heard in the distance.

Though the snow, as I have remarked, was pretty deep on the ground in this part of the forest, the

bear dashed through it at full gallop with the most perfect facility; but it was in perfect order for our skidor, so that though Elg and myself (for Svensson followed at some distance on our tracks) could not keep up with him, we were enabled to push forward at a very tolerable rate. After the animal, however, had gone about a couple of miles, and when he came to a part of the forest where the snow was looser and deeper than in that which he had hitherto traversed, he slackened his pace, and proceeded at a long trot. At the commencement, Jagare stood well to the bear, but though we heard his challenges in the distance, we were not enabled to make any short cuts from the beast striking through the country in nearly a direct line. After a time we came up with the dog, who had partly discontinued the pursuit, and who thenceforth kept so little in advance as to render us but trifling assistance.

For a while we saw nothing of the bear; but when the chase had continued for upwards of an hour, we got a glimpse of him at about forty paces distance; he was facing up a deeply-wooded and rather abrupt acclivity, overhanging a small glade or opening in the forest, along which we were then pursuing our way: but our sight of him was so transitory, that before we could get our guns out of their cases, he was lost to our view. We had now to ascend the rising ground over which the beast had betaken himself; but as it was rather steep, we lost some time before we surmounted it, and he, in consequence, again got a little the start of us.

After the lapse of about half an hour more, however, and as we emerged from among the trees on to a little plain or morass, we had once more the gratification to espy our game at about one hundred paces in advance of us, as he was slowly making his way across this opening in the forest for rather a lofty and precipitous chain of hills, situated on its opposite side. I was not in the habit, as I have said, of

allowing my people to make use of their arms on these occasions, but being apprehensive that this bear, whose death on every account was so much to be desired, might possibly escape us, owing to the season being advanced, the state of the snow, &c., I ordered Elg, who carried my rifle, to send a bullet after him. The hind quarters of the beast were at this time towards us, and I had not therefore an expectation of its being attended with any serious results; but I still thought it probable, that if he were wounded, his progress would be so much retarded as to allow of my approaching within good range of him with my double gun. In this anticipation I was not disappointed, for, on his receiving Elg's fire—which, by-the-by, did not do him any actual injury, the ball, as we subsequently ascertained, only grazing the skin of his fore leg—he became enraged, when, wheeling about, he dashed towards us as fast as he was able. He had not, however, advanced very many paces before he was assailed by Jagare, who, encouraged by our presence, gallantly made at him, and, by attracting his attention, was thus the means of diverting from ourselves the threatened storm. The snow had hereabouts obtained a considerable degree of consistency, for though, in most places, the bear sunk a foot or more into it, in others, its surface altogether supported him.

Whilst this was going on, I was not idle, for, leaving my man Elg, to reload his rifle, and with my gun, which I had slipped out of its case, in one hand and a stick in the other, the better to impel myself forward, I dashed on my skidor towards the brute. It was a very amusing sight at this time to see the beast, who in appearance was as large as a well-grown pony, as he made his attacks upon the poor dog.

When he found his attempts to get hold of the dog were unavailing, he continued his course across the plain, whilst I pushed after him at my best pace.

But he did not seem much to notice my approach, his attention being taken up with Jagare, who was hanging close in his rear, until I had advanced to within a short distance of him; and then, instead of attacking me, he became intimidated, when taking to his heels, he went off in the opposite direction at full gallop.

At this period, the bear had all but gained the extremity of the little plain, and was on the point of again plunging into the thicket; as I found he was gaining upon me, no time was to be lost, so halting when at about twenty paces distance from him, I quickly levelled and discharged one of my barrels. On receiving my ball, which only slightly wounded him, the beast spun round with the rapidity of a teetotum, when uttering a terrible growl, he, with distended jaws, was in the act of dashing towards me; but his career was soon at an end, for taking a snap shot with the other barrel, I had the good fortune to split his skull open, on which he instantly fell dead on the snow.

It was well that my last bullet told properly, or I should have been in an awkward predicament, as, now that my gun was discharged, I was without weapon of any kind, and Elg was a long distance in the back-ground.

The Capercali, or Cock of the Wood.

The capercali is to be found in most parts of the Scandinavian peninsula; indeed, as far to the north as the pine tree is seen to flourish, which is very near to the North Cape itself. These birds are, however, very scarce in the more southern of the Swedish provinces. The favourite haunts of the capercali are extensive fir-woods. In coppices, or small covers, he is seldom or never to be found. Professor Nilsson observes, that "those which breed in the larger forests remain there all the year round; but those

which, on the contrary, breed on the fjall sides, or in the more open part of the country, in the event of deep snow, usually fall down to the lower grounds."

Excepting there be a deep snow, the capercali is much upon the ground in the day-time; very commonly, however, he sits on the pines. During the night, according to Mr. Nilsson, "he always roosts in the trees." But this is not quite correct; for, if the weather be very cold, he not unfrequently, as I myself have very many times witnessed, buries himself in the snow. Mr. Nilsson says also, "the capercali flies heavily, and with much noise, and neither high in the air nor for a long distance." I cannot quite coincide in this opinion, because, taking the size of the bird into consideration, I do not think his flight particularly heavy or noisy; and because I have not only seen the capercali a very considerable height in the air, but I have known him to take a flight of several miles at a time. Mr. Nilsson further observes, that "the capercali seldom sits on the tops of the pines." This is certainly a mistake, as during the winter-time he is, in most instances, to be seen perched on the very uppermost branches of these trees.

At the period of the year of which I am now speaking, I usually shot the capercali in company with my Lapland dog, Brunette. She commonly flushed them from the ground; where, for the purpose of feeding upon berries, &c., they are much during the autumnal months. In this case, if they saw only the dog, their flight in general was short, and they soon perched in the trees. Here, as Brunette had the eye of an eagle, and the foot of an antelope, she was not long in following them. Sometimes, however, these birds were in the pines in the first instance; but as my dog was possessed of an extraordinarily fine sense of smelling, she would often wind, or, in other words, scent them from a very long distance.

When she found the capercali, she would station herself under the tree where it was sitting, and by keeping up an incessant barking, direct my steps towards the spot. I now advanced with silence and caution; and as it frequently happened that the attention of the bird was much taken up with observing the dog, I was enabled to approach until it was within the range of my rifle, or even of my common gun.

In the forest, the capercali does not always present an easy mark when he takes wing from the trees; for, dipping down from the pines nearly to the ground, as is frequently the case, they are often almost out of distance before one can properly take aim. No. 1 or 2 shot may answer very well, at short range, to kill the hens; but for the cocks, the sportsman should be provided with much larger.

The above plan of shooting the capercali is very commonly adopted throughout Scandinavia; and, during the autumnal months in particular, is occasionally attended with considerable success. But I do not speak from much experience, as, at that period of the year, my time has in general been otherwise occupied. I have, however, killed five of these birds in a single day.

In the early part of the autumn, cocks and hens sit nearly equally well to a dog; but as the season advances, the cocks become so excessively wild, as usually to take flight the instant the dog begins to challenge. This is not always the case with the hens, for these will often remain in the trees, during all periods of the year, until a person approaches immediately near to them.

Towards the commencement, and during the continuance of the winter, the capercali are generally in packs; these, which are usually composed wholly of cocks (the hens keeping apart), do not separate until the approach of spring. These packs, which are sometimes said to contain fifty or a hun-

dred birds, usually hold to the sides of the numerous lakes, and morasses, with which the northern forests abound; and to follow the same in the winter time, with a good rifle, is no ignoble amusement.

The number of capercali a man may shoot in a given period, depends altogether upon circumstances. Indeed, it often happens, that in countries abounding with these birds, from the state of the weather, there being a crust upon the snow, &c., the most experienced sportsman will hardly kill a single one for days together. I have, however, heard people assert they have bagged as many as six or seven in the course of the morning and evening of the same day; but one is a much more usual number.

Though this plan of shooting the capercali during the spring is common throughout most parts of Scandinavia, I am told, that in Norrland and Wasterbotton, from whence Stockholm is furnished with its principal supplies of game, that destructive practice is not generally adopted. This arises from the people in those districts having sense enough to know that if they kill too many of the birds in the spring, there is little probability of there being a good breed during the succeeding autumn.

THE POINTER.—No. 1.

THE accompanying embellishment represents a very handsome specimen of its class, bony, clean-limbed, strong, well-formed, and therefore capable of undergoing more than ordinary exertion; at the same time, it is calculated to excel in recognising its proximity to game, as well as for the manner of leading the sportsman up to it; having, as the reader will easily perceive, a large, capacious, well-formed head, its expansive breadth indicating superior powers of smell, while the frontal elevation is equally expressive of animal sagacity. If the reader will peruse the aggregate flexion or facial expression of the animal here represented, he will perceive a saturnine surliness which seems to forbid the caressing approach, for which the Spanish pointer is so remarkable, and which clearly manifests its consanguinity to that ill-tempered variety. The apex of the nose, it will be perceived, is large, and not altogether handsome; a dip of the French double-nosed blood is thus indicated, with the unsightly furrow filled up (from the influence of other strains), yet leaving an unusual breadth on the superior part of this external organ.

If we contemplate the body of the animal, and also its limbs and feet, a great improvement on the Spanish and French varieties of the pointer become perceptible; and therefore from this circumstance, added to the flecked appearance of the coat, it would seem as if it acknowledged a degree of relationship to the Dalmatian dog, so much used as a carriage accompaniment in the metropolis.



THE POINTER, NO. 1.



If I am right in my conjectures (and I entertain no doubt that they are fundamentally correct), we are thus presented with a pointer uniting three essential and very desirable qualities in its composition, the judicious union of which renders it admirably adapted for the purpose for which it is intended : further, it is an animal as well calculated as possible for propagation—a very important object, and one which should be kept in view by all sportsmen ; since a very valuable dog *may* (but very rarely) be produced from a very injudicious cross, which, however, notwithstanding its superior performance in the field, is by no means calculated for reproduction : a strong case in point immediately presents itself. Colonel Thornton's celebrated pointer, Dash, was bred from a rather small pointer bitch and a shallow-flewed (fleet) foxhound, and in his appearance indicated his relationship to the latter in a very preponderating manner—the lofty foxhound, not the low stooping pointer. Yet he was acknowledged as a pointer of surpassing excellence both on the moors and in the enclosures, and was “ sold to the late Sir Richard Symons for one hundred and sixty pounds' worth of Champagne and Burgundy, which had been bought at the French ambassador's sale, a hogshead of claret, an elegant gun, and a pointer ; with a stipulation that if any accident befel the dog that might render him unfit for hunting, he was to be returned to the colonel at the price of fifty guineas.” The dog had the misfortune to break his leg, and was returned accordingly ; but as a stallion proved worthless as might reasonably be expected (at least by those who have duly studied the subject), from that almost indescribable *inharmoniousness which seemed to breathe around him*. I have used this mode of expression as the best calculated to convey my meaning, which may be more clearly understood, perhaps, by further stating that there are homogeneous crosses and he-

terogeneous crosses; the former desirable, the latter rarely answering the intended purpose: when, for instance, the English pointer (after breeding in the same family too long) becomes too light, and his head too narrow, a dip of Spanish blood is advisable, or the heavier dog of this country may be employed for the requisite purpose—which I call a homogeneous cross, while a cross with the setter and pointer I deem heterogeneous. I am aware it sometimes happens that a valuable animal is produced by a heterogeneous cross, but very rarely indeed; and when a capital dog happens to be thus obtained, he is not calculated for progeneration.

The embellishment accompanying this article represents a beautiful pointer of its class, from which excellent stock may be obtained; because, although it forms the conjunctive union of three ramifications, the mixture was homogeneous. Supposing the animal to be of the feminine gender (which its appearance indicates), for the purpose of breeding, recourse should be had to a dog of a similar character (as a superior sort of pointer to this can scarcely be produced), but which stands in no degree of relationship, or at least very distantly so.

The most difficult point of accomplishment in an animal such as that represented in our pictorial embellishment, is the proper form and quality of the foot, as the Spanish pointer and the French breed, original copious draughts from which are clearly indicated, are defective in this respect, particularly the former, whose large-balled, widely spread, soft foot, incapacitates him from running when the ground is hard, is very liable to laceration, and, under the most favorable circumstances, is opposed to speed or long-continued progressive motion. The foot of the hare is destitute of ball, her toes are narrow, long, and wiry, and in consequence, upon very hard, rocky ground, or during severe frost, she distances the swiftest greyhound: the hare is by far

the fleetest quadruped in creation, by comparison—she may be regarded as equal in speed to a superior greyhound, notwithstanding that she is scarcely a fourth of his size: taking the weight of a stout hare at seven pounds (which will be found tolerably correct), what is that of a stout greyhound? More than four times that weight, beyond all question. The conformation of the hare is calculated for quadrupedal celerity in a manner superior, much superior, to that of any other animal, her foot corresponding to the other points or principles of extraordinary speed; and therefore, in breeding pointers, the foot of the hare should be imitated as far as the limits of nature will admit: the ball of the pointer's foot should be as small as possible; his toes long, narrow, and wiry. Somerville, the most accomplished sportsman of the old school, was the first to propagate the highly erroneous notion of "the round cat foot" being conducive to speed in the dog: very short, bulky toes (which constitute "the round cat foot") in the dog, may be compared to very short, upright pasterns in the horse; and are equally contrary to the true principles of speed.

Finally, if we contemplate the Dalmatian, or coach-dog, from which I suppose the animal (represented in the engraving) derived her flecked coat, and also perhaps her clean well-formed limbs and superior feet, we shall find that he is referable to the hound classification, clearly indicated by his head, his aggregate appearance, and his mode "of going." If, therefore, we regard the animal as uniting the blood of the Spanish, the French, and the Dalmatian, it will require no great stretch of imagination to suppose that the triple mixture was based upon the somewhat degenerated stream of the English pointer. My notion of the *English pointer* will be found under another head.

THE POINTER.—No. II.

THE accompanying figure represents an animal whose general appearance indicates too near an approximation to the highly bred, dashing, fleet (and not unfrequently giddy), foxhound; while the *stare* which characterises his eye in the act of setting game, is utterly at variance with the legitimate expression of the pointer.

There are to be found in many parts of the country what may be called genuine English pointers; not that the strain or blood was originally and purely English, but which, supposing they had drawn a supply from foreign sources, had continued to be bred in such a manner that the individual characteristics of the compound were no longer distinctly traceable; such were the best pointers I ever saw, and such will ever be found the best when the progressive process of breeding is judiciously directed; a dog of this description unites every desirable quality; but in order to keep up or maintain this state of perfection, recourse must be had to blood which owns no degree of consanguinity, since deterioration, disease, and even sterility, are sure to result from breeding in the same family for any length of time. I have known a sort of canine incestuous intercourse produce excellent pointers, and I once saw a superior dog obtained by the union of brother and sister; yet I am decidedly opposed to the system—on account of its injurious effects, to say nothing of very cogent collateral reasons.

The animal represented in the engraving appears to have originated on one side from a family of



THE POINTER, NO. 2.

English pointers, and a highly bred foxhound on the other, the former being deteriorated from the censurable system of breeding in-and-in, had in fact so far dwindled, as to have become too delicately fine, deficient in energy, and almost worthless; to remedy which, the highly bred fleet foxhound was not well calculated.

The highly bred foxhound of modern days is elevated upon a considerable length of leg, whilst his head has been very inconsiderately suffered to become too narrow to contain the requisite quantity of olfactory nerves to constitute a good nose; in consequence he must go away almost at the brush of his fox, and the scent must be good, or he cannot hunt or run up to his game. Such foxhounds, under circumstances suited to their peculiar capabilities, afford very animated diversion; but they can make nothing of a cool scent; nor, indeed, are they able to run when this subtle effluvium is moderate, unless lifted and much assisted by the huntsman. If, therefore, the reader will duly regard the figure now under consideration, he will perceive an aggregate approach to the foxhound above described, too nearly to be consistent with the legitimate qualities of the pointer. His head is too small, the frontal elevation insufficient, while the expression of his eye is at variance with the instinctive sagacity for which the well-bred pointer is so remarkable. He is wiry, but narrow; with a low dropping chest, slender loins, clean limbs, and the mistaken "*round cat foot*," noticed in another place. The animal's head is not of the worst description, though not to be recommended for imitation. It hence results (from such a combination) that the dog would appear to advantage on rich lands where the scent is generally good, as also upon the moors (if sufficiently steady) where the game, by brushing the heather, must afford sufficient scent: such circumstances, added to the dog's acti-

vity, are calculated to exhibit his abilities to the greatest advantage; while upon light soils, scantily clothed with vegetation, he would be likely to experience great difficulty in making out his points, would be apt to become unsteady and to spring his game. He would be fleet (particularly so, had his feet been better formed), but not exactly calculated for endurance, on account of the narrowness of his loins and general frame—very defective qualities abstractedly considered, but which in the present case are as well substituted as nature will allow in the uniform wiryness of his conformation.

If, as a stallion, he be not superlatively desirable, I am of opinion satisfactory pointers might be produced from him (with proper management), because, notwithstanding what has been stated in regard to his foxhound approximation, much of the English pointer is still perceptible in his appearance. However, the bitch selected for the purpose of breeding should be of a more compact and more heavy description, with a larger head, and every way calculated to improve his conformation—which may be regarded as altogether too light.

As there must be a cause for every effect, those who breed pointers should duly consider the object they have in view, both relatively and in the aggregate; thus, as goodness of nose cannot exist without the requisite abundance of olfactory nerves, so the head must be sufficiently capacious to contain them; nor can strength and speed be demonstrated without a corresponding development of bone, tendon, and muscle, accompanied, or brought into operation, by an harmonious conformation.





THE SETTER.

THE SETTER.

AFTER what has already appeared respecting the setter in the earlier part of this little publication, it is not requisite to reiterate my opinion as to his origin, or to restate my notion as to the elements of his composition. As the pointer exhibits various ramifications, so in like manner the setter appears under different characteristics; yet I hesitate not to assert that the specimen here represented manifests every desirable point, and in consequence the conformation appears as nearly faultless as possible—the tail alone excepted.

The animal represented here belongs to a family of setters, the production of which was attended with considerable trouble, and a little vexatious disappointment, but the lengthened experiment resulted in satisfactory success. In the head of the animal under consideration, there is a very harmonious mixture of the hound, the pointer, and the Newfoundland dog: while the expansive capaciousness of the cranium admits the olfactory nerves in sufficient plenty, the flew of the lips and the anterior part of the nose are seen in exquisite correspondence—its sense of smell must, therefore, be unobjectionable: the elevation of the frontal indicates more than usual sagacity; and, consequently, either as regards beauty of appearance or capacity, the head may be regarded perfect.

The depth of chest and very elegant form of the body would seem to indicate a cross—a distant one perhaps—of the shepherd's dog often seen in Scotland. In fact, the only part of the animal which is

not only very beautiful, but highly characteristic, is the tail, which presents to the eye a blunt sameness from beginning to end—utterly unlike that graceful appendage which adds so considerably to the beauty of the setter. The tail of the setter should be cleanly set on, clean along its upper surface, the hair on the under side lengthening from both the ends, particularly the posterior end, and thus forming a graceful curve. It is true, the quality of the dog does not depend upon the tail; but as it may be regarded as giving a finish to his general appearance, the above figure suffers in this respect, as those who regard it will easily perceive.

POSTSCRIPT.

AFTER the greater part of this little work had passed through the process of printing, I ascertained that Mr. Eley had succeeded in forming a cartridge, which will very conveniently supersede the use of the shot belt, as well as become an admirable substitute for the loose charge of shot, even at the short distance of eight or ten yards. He has designated it (appropriately enough) "*Battue*," for which department of *la Chasse au Fusil* it seems admirably calculated. Those who have enjoyed the animating, if not the philosophic, *battue*, are very well aware that snap shots are frequently presented, as well as that the shots in general are at short distances; it hence results, that the cartridge which supersedes the loose charge of shot in *battue* shooting, will also become an eligible substitute for it at the commencement and in the early part of the season for grouse and partridges.

THE END.



